

EARLY AMERICAN ESQUIRES

American Spirit

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2017

The Beckoning Mountains

*Explore the Grandeur of the
Great Smoky Mountains National Park*

**BURN, BRAND,
HANG, SHAME**

*Early American
Punishments*

**NEW-GATE
PRISON**

*Connecticut's Caverns
of Punishment*

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IMAGINATION**

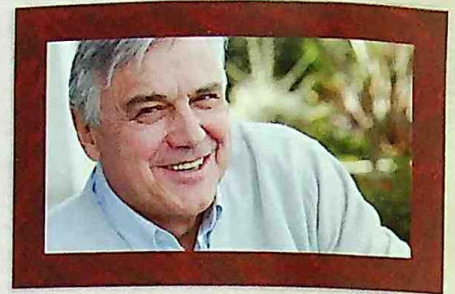
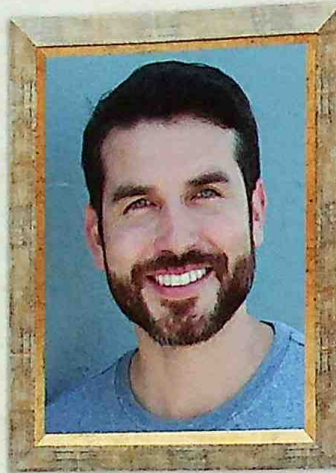
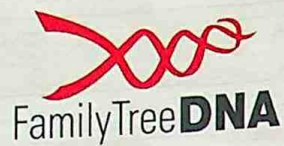
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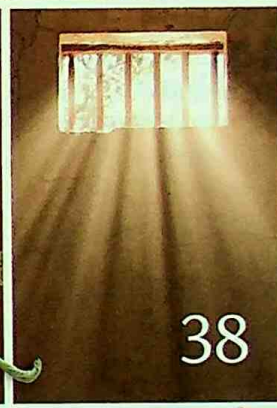
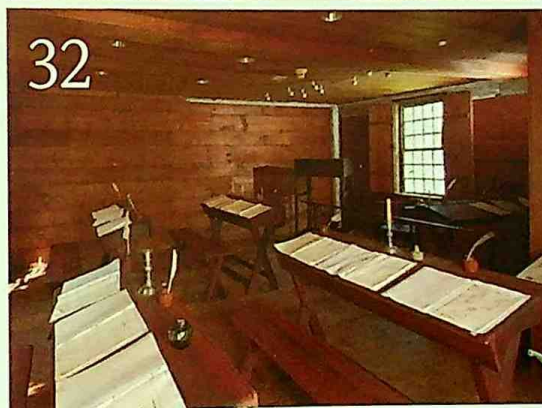
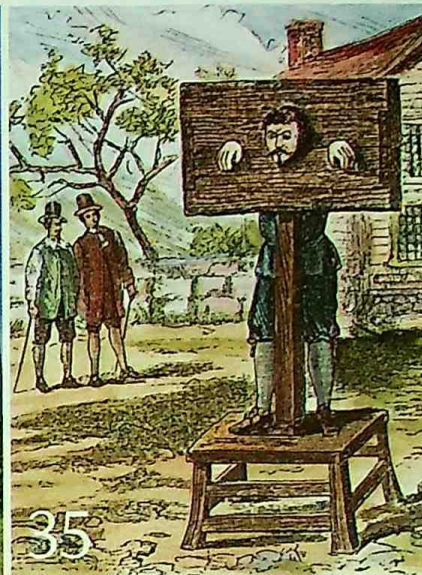
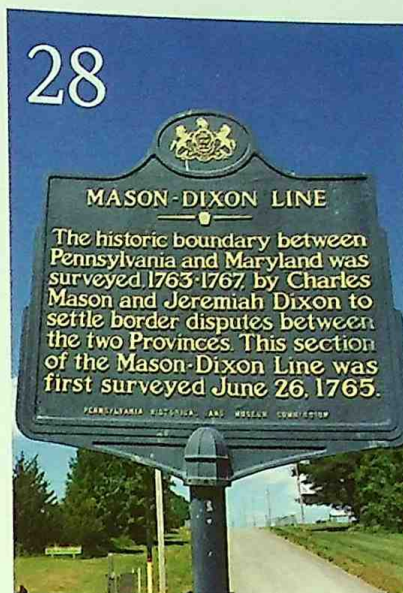
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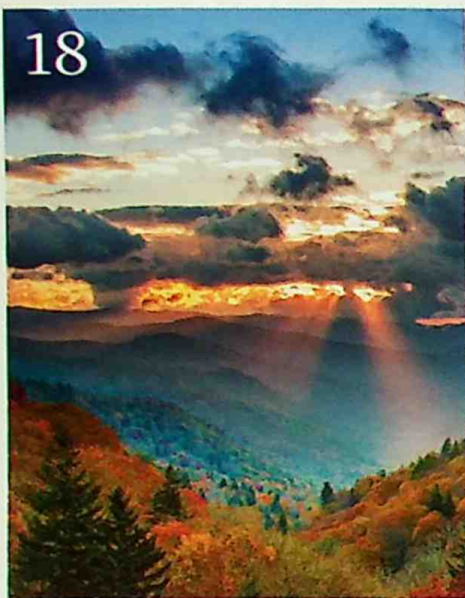
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PHOTO CREDIT:
 © KENNETH CANNING



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From the President General

As autumn approaches its colorful zenith, thousands of visitors will flock to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, nestled along the border of Tennessee and North Carolina. The country's most-visited national park is world-renowned not only for its beautiful fall leaves, but for the beauty of its ancient mountains and trails, Southern Appalachian culture and Cherokee American Indian history.

This fall marks the 240th anniversary of the battles of Saratoga, N.Y., where Americans won a surprise victory over the British in the Revolutionary War. Did you know that Ellen Hardin Walworth, one of the four founders



of the DAR, was an authority on the battlefields of Saratoga and published an account of British General John Burgoyne's campaign? A devoted preservationist, Mrs. Walworth chaired the tablet committee of the Saratoga Monument Association, spearheading a project to research the battles and raise funds to place markers at each site.

In 1763, astronomer Charles Mason and surveyor Jeremiah Dixon left England for the Colonies to resolve a decades-long violent dispute over the boundary between Maryland and Pennsylvania. The two viewed their task, which took four years, as an opportunity to advance scientific knowledge and foster peace. This October marks 250 years since Mason and Dixon completed their survey, offering a chance to appreciate the historic feat anew.

Three of our features are focused on aspects of law and order in early America. We approach the bench with a story on America's first lawyers and the paths they took to get there. In an article on criminal penalties in the Colonies, we look at the ways our ancestors used public humiliation and physical chastisement to punish, gradually moving toward a more humane punishment—imprisonment—by the time of the American Revolution. We also explore New-Gate Prison in Connecticut, which functioned as a notorious site for political prisoners from 1773 to 1827. Once a copper mine, New-Gate is now a national historic landmark undergoing extensive renovations.

Our Historic Home department honors Major Benjamin May DAR Chapter in Farmville, N.C., which owns one of the few properties designed specifically as a DAR meeting house in 1938. Since its construction, this Georgian-style community landmark has functioned continuously for DAR meetings and community events.

Our Patriots spotlights Timothy Matlack, a fiery Patriot whose many talents included exquisite calligraphy. His handwriting skill earned him the privilege of penning the official version of the Declaration of Independence.

Finally, don't forget to check into Whatnot for a report on the DAR's creative donation in celebration of the U.S. Semiquincentennial, as well as the truth behind a few spooky legends and superstitions from New England.

Ann Turner Dillon

Ann Turner Dillon





Harvest in Hand

This ceramic creamware jug was made in Liverpool, England, sometime between 1790 and 1800. Jugs like this often featured transfer-printed decorations. These embellishments included political statements, genre scenes and commemorative portraits of famous people. This jug's scene, titled "Harvest Home," portrays the act of wheat harvesting. A merry group of farmers dances and celebrates the bountiful harvest in the foreground. In addition to scenic decorations, purchasers could also personalize a jug by adding their name. People used jugs to serve water, milk, cider and beer. 🍷

Playing to Her Strengths

In her 22 years as a teacher, Darcy Kennedy taught future doctors, lawyers, actors and even two judges—the types of students any teacher would dream of having in her classroom. But when she looks back at her teaching career, those star students aren't the ones who stand out the most. Instead, it's the ones who barely made it—the ones who needed more attention and effort to succeed.

"One parent came to me and said I saved her son's life," said Mrs. Kennedy, a member of Piney Creek DAR Chapter, Centennial, Colo. "He was on a really rough path. I was able to spend time with him and learn who he was instead of being afraid of him."

For the last 11 years, Mrs. Kennedy taught at a charter school that served primarily an at-risk student body—students and families who had challenges in their life whether it be academic, socio-economic or language hurdles.

"It was almost like a one-room school, and I taught everything from math and science to history and language arts. I mentored and worked one-on-one with them to help these students finish their education."

She also regularly took her students, many of whom were English language learners, to local naturalization ceremonies where they handed out flags and ushered new citizens to their seats.

"Theatre is my joy. I love performing and being able to reach audiences," said Darcy Kennedy, who, in addition to performing in community theater productions, is often the star of her chapter's YouTube videos. "DAR allows you to find your niche."

"I thought it was important for them to know their responsibilities as citizens, and to see that immigrants were and still are the foundation of our country," she said.

Her class also routinely participated in the DAR American History Essay Contest—two of her students read their essays at a 2016 chapter meeting—and helped with community projects led by the Piney Creek DAR Chapter. They celebrated Constitution Week by memorizing the preamble to the Constitution and listening to stories about Mrs. Kennedy's father, who served in World War II and the Korean War.

The charter school closed earlier this year, but Mrs. Kennedy is still serving non-traditional learners as a student services adviser at an online college. Using email, phone calls and text messages, her job is to be their cheerleader and motivate them in their coursework. When needed, she also connects them to social services that can help them pay their bills and improve their health.

Now that her four children are grown, she's dedicating more time to another passion—performing. After earning her master's degree in performance and acting in 1985, she worked for a year with a multicultural theatre company in Denver. While raising a family, she put acting on the back burner until 2014, when she landed a small role as a nurse in a play called "The Lyons." Since then, she has acted in 11 other productions,

including "To Kill a Mockingbird." On September 1, she started a six-week run as Mattie Fae in "August: Osage County."

"Theatre is my joy," she said. "I love performing and being able to reach audiences. Denver has an extremely talented pool of actors, and I'm so proud to be a part of it."

She also uses her talents in service to DAR since joining five years ago. Mrs. Kennedy serves as her chapter's National Defense Chair and enjoys making historical and current event presentations at chapter meetings. She's also the star of her chapter's YouTube videos calling for essay contest participants.

"I love that DAR allows you to find your niche," she said. "Whatever interests you, DAR has a job for you." 🌸



Mrs. Kennedy regularly performs in local productions. • A shot of her in character as Maudie in "To Kill A Mockingbird."

Hoosiers, We're Humbled

In the July/August 2017 issue of *American Spirit*, we left out a very important state in our "All-American Adventure" article—Indiana! Hoosiers, we apologize. To make it up to you, we wanted to feature a few unique Indiana roadside attractions.

> Visit Parke County, Ind., the covered bridge capital of the world. Parke County is home to 31 covered bridges, each of which are found in rustic, picturesque settings. In October, head to Rockville, Ind., for the Covered Bridge Festival, a countywide festival that has been taking place for 60 years. Enjoy free entertainment and shop at local arts and crafts vendors. www.coveredbridges.com



> If you're an antique lover, head to Wayne County's Antique Alley, a 60-mile stretch of U.S. Route 40 that features almost 1,000 antique dealers. www.visitrichmond.org/visitors/things-to-do/antique-alley

> During the early-to-mid 19th century, Levi and Catharine Coffin, "conductors," or guides, for the Underground Railroad, helped more than 1,000 African-American slaves to safety. Their home became known as "The Grand Central Station of



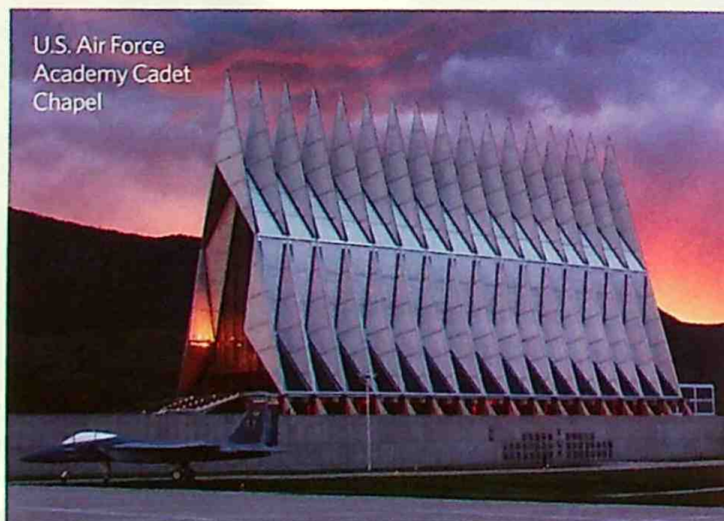
the Underground Railroad." Today, the home in Fountain City, Ind., is a National Historic Landmark that contains many original furniture

pieces from the Coffin family. www.indianamuseum.org/levi-and-catharine-coffin-state-historic-site#



> Music lovers—and yes, even non-music lovers—will love Dr. Ted's Musical Marvels in Dale, Ind. The museum houses a large collection of instruments from the 1800s to the mid-1900s.

The museum only opens for scheduled tours of 15 people or more, so gather a group and head over to Dr. Ted's! www.drteds.com



U.S. Air Force
Academy Cadet
Chapel

Reporting for Duty— In Colorado Springs

On page 20 of "An All-American Adventure" it states that the Air Force Academy Chapel is in Boulder, Colo. The last time I had my Boy Scout Troop at the chapel we were in Colorado Springs, Colo. Having met and married my wife in Ft. Collins while attending Colorado State, giving Colorado University at Boulder any credit for anything is not to my liking.

With that error aside, your magazine is a great read. Keep up the great work.

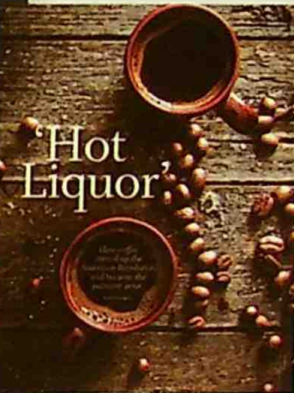
—Burgess Budd

Social Media Check-in

The following comments were recently posted on *American Spirit*'s Facebook page, which you can find @AmericanSpiritMagazine. "Like" our page and share what you love about the magazine and ideas for topics we might consider featuring in future issues.



As a coffee aficionado, I was enthralled reading the story in the recent issue [March/April 2017] about the history of coffee in the new land



that became known as the United States of America. Thank you Dorothy Jones for your courage to open a coffee shop and have women as customers in the 1670s. I'd love to have a latte with you.

— Kathryn Walker West

This is a wonderful magazine filled with well-written articles about historical events, people and locations. I especially love the March/April 2017 issue filled with articles on the incredible women who helped to shape our country and its history. I never throw these out, and go back to them time and time again for inspiration, review and just for the pleasure of re-visiting the photography.

— Susan Broderick

American Spirit has so many great articles every issue to read. It is read by my whole family who also walk away with something new each time we get the magazine.

— Peggy Barnes

I love reading about the historical places throughout this country, as well as the researched articles on people who made a difference in our country. The price is reasonable for all the information in the magazine. I read it cover to cover. My husband likes it, too!

— Peggy Tobin Torgerson

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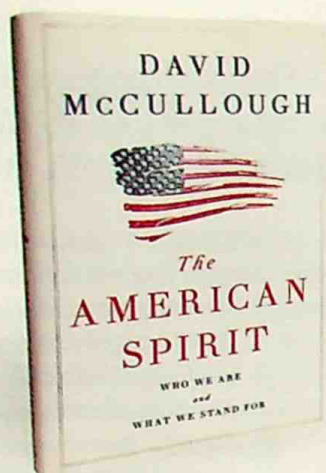
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'The American Spirit Still at Work'

Distinguished historian David McCullough's new book, *The American Spirit: Who We Are and What We Stand For* (Simon and Schuster, 2017), is a compact collection of speeches he's given over 30 years. In these speeches, the two-time Pulitzer Prize winner reflects on forces that have shaped and continue to shape us.

Many of the speeches were commencement addresses, including several from occasions when McCullough received an honorary degree. Other speeches highlighted special events—a joint session of Congress in 1989; a July 4, 1994, naturalization ceremony at Monticello; the 200th anniversary of the White House in 2000; and a 2016 meeting of the U.S. Capitol Historical Society.

McCullough's speaking style is avuncular, reminiscent of the late legendary newsman Walter Cronkite. McCullough is there to instruct, guide and, when needed, gently cajole, but never to preach. This comes through

clearly here since these essays were meant to be read aloud.

So, who are we and what do we stand for? Rather than spell it out, McCullough, who has been called the master of narrative history, summons figures of our past to demonstrate.

Presidents John Adams and Thomas Jefferson appear frequently. Both lifelong learners with a complicated history between them, they nevertheless embodied the spirit of cooperation, courage and sacrifice. Their friendship, interrupted by a decades-long rift and restored in their old age, speaks both to their passionate visions of America and Americans' ability to come together despite profound differences.

Theodore Roosevelt takes his turn on the stage as the first "modern" president. Brash, colorful, superbly educated and well-read, Roosevelt's personal optimism and drive were both inspired and derived from that of the American people, McCullough writes. Another young president, John F. Kennedy,

But, McCullough laments, history is often neither well-taught nor well-regarded. He believes history is the story of people, but too many committee-compiled textbooks have sanitized the subject until it is "hilariously politically correct" and, what is worse, boring.

Events cannot be understood without understanding the people involved in them, and modern schooling too often omits that key element. We should learn that our ancestors were often "winging it" through unfamiliar situations, he writes.

They were fallible, doing the best they could in overwhelmingly difficult circumstances. The Founders would probably recoil at our veneration of them. They were human, full of contradictions and weaknesses, ambition and worry.

It's almost impossible to read these selected speeches and not feel optimistic about America. Every generation has had those bent on convincing us things have never been bleaker. But fortunately, Americans are not a people

McCullough's speaking style is avuncular, reminiscent of the late legendary newsman Walter Cronkite.

McCullough is there to instruct, guide and, when needed, gently cajole, but never to preach.

resembled Roosevelt in that regard, vowing to reach the moon and achieve other endeavors "not because they are easy, but because they are hard."

McCullough's love of history and learning shines in every speech. He repeatedly reminds his audience that they should read widely and deeply—and not just history. To him, history is not some isolated pocket of lonely academic endeavor. Instead, history runs like a vein of silver through the sciences, arts and all of life. The more one knows about history, the better one can understand our complex world and, possibly, make a positive contribution to it.

who don sackcloth and pour ashes over their heads, McCullough writes. Americans, he reminds us, are all about fixing things and doing what's never been done.

Even so, he admits he's sometimes prepared to give speeches dismayed about current events. But he writes he has always "returned with my outlook greatly restored, having seen, again and again, long-standing American values still firmly in place, good people involved in joint efforts to accomplish changes for the better, the American spirit still at work."

—Bill Hudgins

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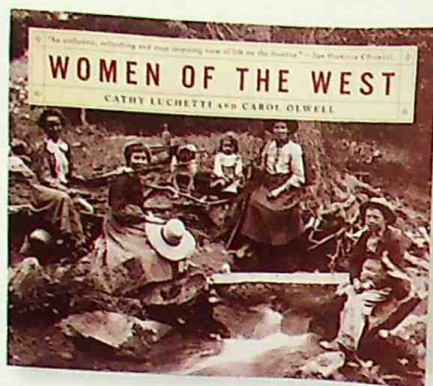
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Westward Women

First published in 1982 and reissued in paperback this year, *Women of the West* (W.W. Norton & Co.) by Cathy Luchetti and Carol Olwell shows our enduring curiosity with America's growth from 13 Colonies on the seaboard fringe of a continent to a nation "from sea to shining sea." The book puts a face on westward expansion—though men appear in many of the images, the focus is on women.

As co-author Olwell explains, "We wanted to offer a sense of life as lived by western women between 1840 and 1915 through their actual words—their letters, diaries and journals—and through photographs portraying daily life." Those photos are rare, she notes, because "the work that women



These photos are rare because "the work that women were doing was not considered important enough by many to record."

CAROL OLWELL, CO-AUTHOR

were doing was not considered important enough by many to record."

Photographic technology was also primitive, complicated and awkward. In formal portraits, the subjects pose solemnly before sod houses or roughhewn cabins, on a raft ferry (with a cow secured by ropes in one corner) and beside a stream in what they hoped was gold country.

Then there are whimsical shots, perhaps also posed but more relaxed—a woman milking a cow and aiming a stream

of milk into an eager cat's mouth; two young girls excited by being photographed and whispering to each other; and two women galloping through a field on horseback. There are working scenes in factories, farms and a telephone exchange switchboard. The difficulty of everyday life on the frontier is well-represented, with scenes of women making soap, doing laundry, churning butter and branding cattle.

Many of the women photographed were Caucasian, but also appearing throughout the book as well as in a dedicated chapter were minority women—American Indians, African-Americans, Japanese and Chinese, including Chinese slave girls whose plight inspired a rescue movement.

Women of the West includes extensive excerpts from diaries and letters. Though most of the writers were white, there are accounts from Pauline Lyons Williamson, an African-American woman who emigrated to California in 1885, and from Sarah Winnemucca, a Paiute woman remembered for her book, *Life Among the Piutes* (sic).

The stories are fascinating, often sad and even inspiring. *Women of the West* brings a lost world back to vivid life. 🌻

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America 250 Takes Root

DAR Donates 76 Trees to Independence National Historical Park

The U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission was established in July 2016 to facilitate national plans to observe and commemorate the 250th anniversary of America. The commission includes eight members of Congress, 16 private citizens and eight federal officials and ex-officio members. The group, which will meet at Philadelphia's Independence Hall, will solicit ideas and develop a report that will provide recommendations to the president and Congress within two years of its formation.

At its 126th Continental Congress, DAR announced a \$380,000 donation of 76 trees to the Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia. The donation marks the first major gift to the nation in celebration of the U.S. Semiquincentennial.

The National Society is funding the purchase, planting and ongoing care of 76 trees in the park in honor of the Spirit of '76 that inspired the Patriots to declare their independence. These trees will be planted over the upcoming years in order to mature in time for the 250th U.S. anniversary in July 2026.

"The park is a sort of arboretum, made up of several landscapes," said



Left to right: President General Ann Turner Dillon, National Park Service Acting Northeast Regional Director Cynthia MacLeod, and Honorary President General and U.S. Semiquincentennial Commissioner Lynn Forney Young

Cynthia MacLeod, National Park Service Acting Northeast Regional Director, who accepted the check from NSDAR President General Ann Turner Dillon. "The new trees will significantly enhance the overall character that has defined the park for decades. Eventually we will have a map that locates each of the 76 trees."

The donation is the first component of DAR's new America 250 initiative

"The new trees will significantly enhance the overall character that has defined the park for decades."

to engage the organization's 185,000 members with the commemoration and celebration of the nation's Semiquincentennial anniversary. It follows a long list of major DAR contributions over generations to strengthen Independence Hall and its environment. The group planted 13 trees at Independence Square during the 1926 Sesquicentennial, and it also funded the restoration of Independence Hall's second floor for the 1976 Bicentennial. For more information, visit www.dar.org/America250.

If you have ideas for the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission to consider, please email them to America250@nsdar.org.

States and Their Superstitions

Legendary Tales From Massachusetts, Vermont and Connecticut

Somber Memories at Proctor's Ledge

Salem, Mass., recently dedicated a memorial to those convicted and killed during the 1692 witch trials. The memorial has been placed at the site where researchers say 19 men and women were executed.

The memorial opened on July 19, 2017, the 325th anniversary of the first of three mass executions at Proctor's Ledge, an area on the lower slope of Gallows Hill in Salem. It's the site where five women—Sarah Good, Elizabeth Howe, Susannah Martin, Rebecca Nurse and Sarah Wildes—were hanged.

Attending the memorial dedication was Professor Emerson "Tad" Baker of Salem State University, one of the researchers who pinpointed Proctor's Ledge as the location of the hangings in January 2016. These experts confirmed the location after analyzing eyewitness accounts, old maps and historical documents, as well as using geographic information systems and ground-penetrating radar technology.

In an address to the crowd, Salem Mayor Kimberley Driscoll said that the memorial is a reminder of all those who lost their lives to fear and superstition during the witch trials. "The chapter of that story that took place here at Proctor's Ledge 325 years ago can be a difficult one for us to tell, but honestly, that means it's all the more important to do so," she was quoted as saying in *The Boston Globe*.

The design includes a landscaped slope that leads down to where the executions likely happened. At the bottom, a semicircular area is enclosed by a stone

wall with the victims' names inscribed. An oak tree stands at the center.

A \$174,000 Community Preservation Act grant helped fund the memorial. The city said that it had also received many small donations, "many from descendants of those wrongfully executed at the site."

Why Witch Windows, Vermont?

Have you ever seen the angled windows tucked on the upper stories of some Vermont farmhouses? A lot of Vermonters call these architectural oddities "witch windows."

A recent episode of Vermont Public Radio (VPR)'s new podcast, "Brave Little State," took a closer look at the superstitions attached to these unusual windows (see photos below).

"The story is that a witch on a broomstick can't fly through a crooked window opening," VPR quoted Vermont

architectural historian Devin Colman. "But it's the only crooked window in the whole house. And if I were a witch, I would just use one of the other vertical windows," he said with a laugh.

Colman explained the probable, though less exciting, origin of the witch window stemmed from New England frugality and conservation. When additions are built, they often cover windows. An extra window saved from deconstruction could be added to the sliver of the wall between the new gable and the old one.

"It's simply a really practical New England response to the need to get daylight and fresh air into a second-story room," Colman said.

Though these special windows are more likely to be found in 19th-century farmhouses in Vermont, they can also be spotted in rural areas of New Hampshire and Maine.

Listen to more Brave Little State episodes by downloading the podcast here: <http://bravelittlestate.org>.

Connecticut's Dark Day

"Damned Connecticut" is a fascinating Connecticut-centric blog investigating strange experiences, legends and spooky historical stories. Under categories such as "Hauntings," "Odd Things," "Weird Places" and



"Witchcraft Trials," the blog authors uncover intriguing, strange and sometimes humorous stories as they delve into the state's unexplained mysteries and quirky happenings.

One blog post tells the story of the morning of May 19, 1780, which became known as "The Dark Day." Skies grew so dark over New England and parts of the Northeast that "everything bore the gloom and aspect of night," according to *Our First Century*, written in 1876 by Richard Miller Devens.

People had to use candles to see, birds stopped singing, businesses shuttered and farms shut down. Many Puritans

wondered if it was a sign from God, and the Connecticut legislature almost adjourned its session, fearing "the day of judgment had come," according to Devens' book. Even General George Washington, leading the Continental Army in New Jersey, made note of the strange darkness in his diary.

Despite residents' fears of the End Times, the Dark Day wasn't a supernatural event. There was a scientific explanation for the blanket of darkness, but it wasn't discovered until 2008. That's when "researchers examining tree rings in the Algonquin highlands of southern Ontario discovered evidence

of a massive fire that had happened there in 1780," Damned Connecticut's Ray Bendici writes. "Great columns of smoke wafted into the upper atmosphere, affecting the sky hundreds of miles away in New England. It's a phenomenon that has also been observed in the wake of large-scale natural disasters such as volcanic eruptions."

Learn more about Connecticut's mysteries at www.damnedct.com. Plus, read about the authors' experience visiting Connecticut's New-Gate Prison before it closed for renovations. (Discover the history of New-Gate on page 38 of this issue). •



Discover the meaning behind some of the DAR chapters' interesting names.

Tisbury Manor Chapter, Monson, Maine, was organized November 15, 1952. The Manor of Tisbury was granted during the reign of Charles II of England. The grant included Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, the Elizabeth Islands and other small nearby islands. Thomas Mayhew from Tisbury, England, was the first Lord of the Manor of Tisbury.

Mayhew was not called "Lord Mayhew" of Tisbury, as the land grant carried no official title with it. However, it did carry obligations and privileges. He was considered so dedicated to the welfare of those under his jurisdiction that he became known as one of the best Colonial governors.

The last Lord of the Manor of Tisbury was Mayhew's descendant, Captain Matthew Mayhew, Patriot commander of the Dukes County militia in 1776.

Reverend John Robinson Chapter, Tulsa, Okla., was organized April 15, 1950, by Killis Reese. Her ancestor, Isaac Robinson of Massachusetts, was the son of Reverend John Robinson. Robinson was born in England in 1575. Initially a Fellow of the Church of England, he found himself facing increasing religious oppression and separated himself from the state church. His congregation wanted to move to Holland to practice religion freely, but their first attempt resulted in his arrest and confinement. Robinson's group of Separatist Puritans persevered and successfully settled



in Leiden, Holland. In 1617, Robinson, as pastor of the "Pilgrim Fathers," as they became known, began to plan for his church to form a colony in America. In 1620, the *Mayflower* sailed for America with Robinson's son, Isaac, aboard. Robinson remained in Leiden, where he died March 1, 1625. He is buried in Pieterskerk in Leiden. Today, a large bronze plaque on the outer wall of the church honors him.

Organized 90 years ago on March 21, 1927, **Charles Trumbull Hayden Chapter**, Tempe, Ariz., is named for a man whose family lived in Connecticut for seven generations. Born in 1825, he eventually worked his way west as a teacher in various towns, as a merchant for those headed to the gold fields, and as a teamster hauling freight. He ended up in Tucson, where he became Arizona's first territorial judge. On a trip through the area now known as Tempe, he recognized the need for a ferry across the untamed Salt River, which frequently flooded the area, and built one there. He also built a flour mill and an adobe home for maximum cooling in the oppressive climate. Later he added rooms for a trading post, freight depot, ferry headquarters, blacksmith shop, wagon repair shop and boarding house.

Hayden married at age 50. When his first child was born, he donated land for the first elementary school. He was influential in establishing the first territorial Normal School (or teachers college). As president of the local Board of Education, he rushed the construction of the four-room structure to begin classes within a year, averting threats to repeal the legislation. The Normal School later became Arizona State University. •



Stewards of History

Historical foundations and preservation societies across the country run on the fuel of energetic volunteers and knowledgeable docents—many of whom are DAR members. These historically focused members devote endless time and energy to their local groups to help educate and promote the value of historic preservation to the public.

Alicia Lipinski, member of Fort Industry DAR Chapter, Toledo, Ohio, volunteers at the Wolcott Heritage Center in Maumee, Ohio. She began as a hostess for tours, and she later became a docent. Most recently, she became a member of the Heritage Center's education committee, which plans and executes an annual summer day camp for children.

This year's week-long historical day camp focused on patriotism and the history of the Maumee area from the Treaty of Greenville in 1795 to World War I. The 2016 historical day camp covered an even broader theme, giving students an overview of the history of Northwestern Ohio. Children played old-fashioned games, learned quilting and discovered how to make butter, candles and ice



Alicia Lipinski helps plan and execute an annual summer day camp for children in Maumee, Ohio.

cream. The camp also featured a tour of a local War of 1812 battlefield.

"I am so proud to have been a part of sharing the love of country with these young people," Mrs. Lipinski said.



Camp Middlebrook DAR Chapter members volunteer as docents for the Abraham Staats House in South Bound Brook, N.J.

In New Jersey, several members of the Camp Middlebrook DAR Chapter, Bound Brook, N.J., volunteer as docents with the Friends of the Abraham Staats House. Located in South Bound Brook, N.J., the house dates from about 1740, and served as Baron Frederick William von Steuben's headquarters during the American Revolution. For the past few years, Camp Middlebrook Daughters

have volunteered during the annual Battle of Bound Brook Living History Weekend at the Abraham Staats House.

Members also participate in the Heritage Trail Association's annual "Five Generals" bus tour, which includes the Abraham Staats House as one of its stops. The tour gives an overview of five historic houses in Somerset County, all of which were used by generals during the Revolutionary War. Dressed in Colonial attire, chapter members greet visitors and answer questions about the home.

Jayne Larion, member of Genesee Chapter, Flint, Mich., and associate member of the Eliza Lucas Pinckney DAR Chapter, Charleston, S.C., is a senior docent for the Historic Charleston Foundation's (HCF) Festival of Houses and Gardens every April, and for the Preservation Society of Charleston's House and Garden Tours in October. In 2015, HCF named her Docent of the Year.

Mrs. Larion meets with the homeowners and other volunteers, researches the history of homes and their furnishings, and trains a team of docents so that they're knowledgeable about each home. As senior docent, she describes the home's style and discusses the role it played in history, setting the stage for visitors before they tour the city's other historic buildings.

"I love sharing the history of these homes and highlighting their interiors," Mrs. Larion said. "Aspects such as their decorative arts, furniture, paintings, china, silver collections, as well as the crown molding and pine floors speak to us. We all learn the value of preservation."



The Historic Charleston Foundation named Jayne Larion its 2015 Docent of the Year.

ADVERTISEMENT

The Indigo Girl

IN COLONIAL SOUTH CAROLINA, AN EXTRAORDINARY SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL WILL DEFY ALL EXPECTATIONS TO ACHIEVE HER DREAM AND MAKE HISTORY.

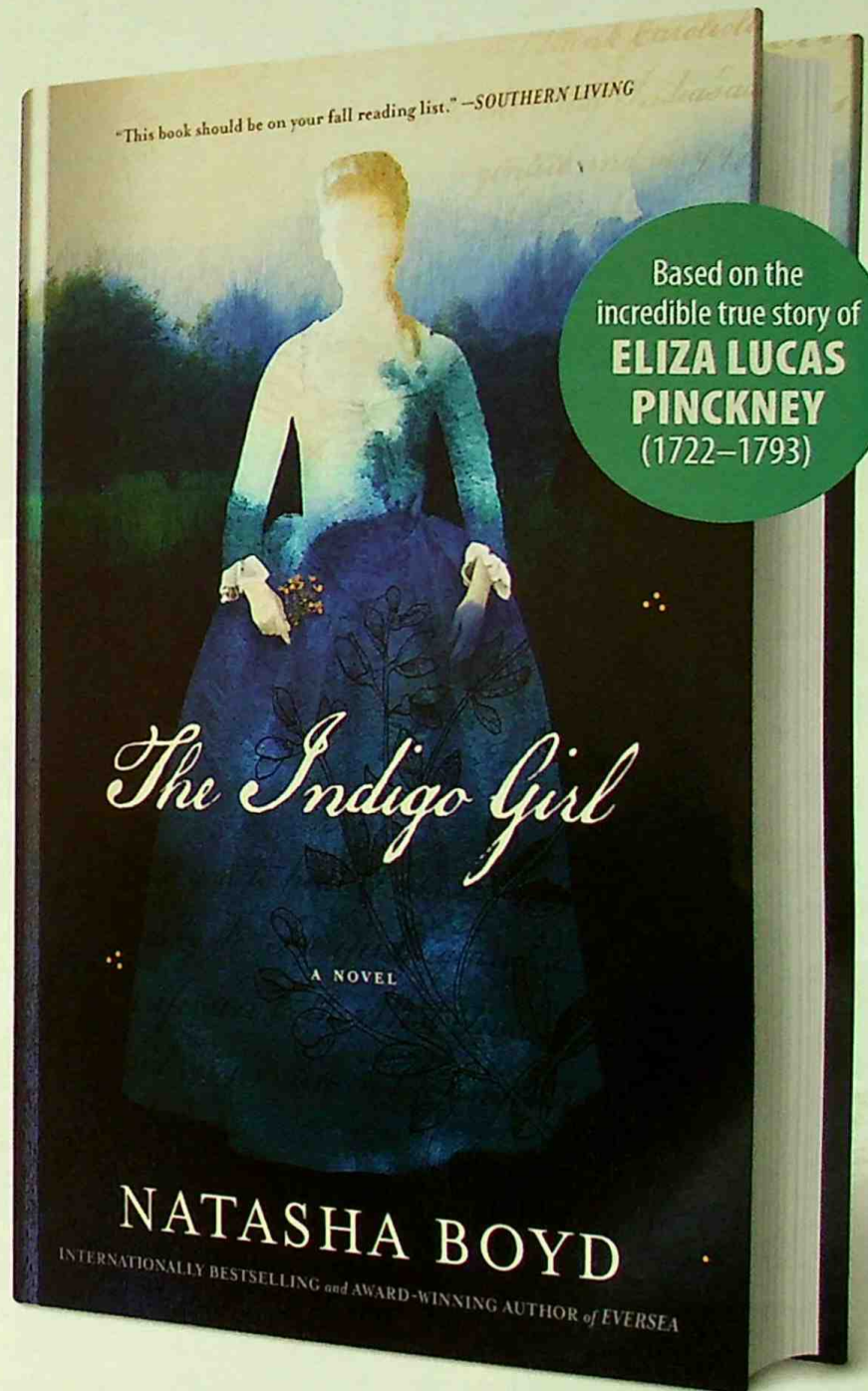
"Without preaching or judging, the narrative integrates the politics of gender inequality, race, and class into Eliza's quest for confidence and allies... Boyd's first historical novel captivates on every level, refreshingly crafting the eighteenth-century world of real-life Eliza Lucas Pinckney.

Fans of Elizabeth Gilbert's *The Signature of All Things* will savor."

—LIBRARY JOURNAL (starred review)

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Special Projects Grants

Supporting worthy projects nationwide focused on the mission of DAR



DAR Grant Helps Reveal Impact of Slavery on Early American Farming

Visitors to the new American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, Va., will have a unique opportunity to witness everyday life for early Americans—whether young or old, soldier or officer, slave or free. The museum, which held its grand opening in spring 2017 and replaced the Yorktown Victory Center, features living history exhibits, including a Revolutionary encampment and an early American farm. Designed to evoke the 18th century, the farm features a house, kitchen and tobacco barn, fields of crops, an orchard, and a new building representing Revolutionary-era slave quarters.

The war had profound effects on the institution of slavery. Several thousand slaves won their freedom by serving on both sides of the War of Independence. As a result, a surprising number of slaves were manumitted, while thousands of others freed themselves by running away.

The exhibit exposes visitors to the significant role played by enslaved Africans in the economy and society of the Virginia Colony. It also portrays ways that both white farmers and enslaved Africans interacted and impacted one another's lives. The creation of the slave quarters is one of the ways the museum depicts an often overlooked aspect of the Revolutionary period—the lives of

African-Americans, whose stories of labor, hardship and military sacrifice contributed significantly to the cultural and economic fabric of our nation.

A DAR Special Projects Grant, along with public and private dollars, helped fund the cost of labor and materials to construct the slave quarters. "The DAR shares with the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation a commitment to bringing history to life for our nation's citizens and students," said Virginia Lee, regent of the sponsoring Williamsburg DAR Chapter. "Thanks to this partnership, an important story will be interpreted with historical accuracy and sensitivity."

The NSDAR Special Projects Grants program invites public charity 501(c)(3) organizations to apply for matching fund grants to support local projects related to historic preservation, education and patriotism. For more information on applying for a Special Projects Grant from DAR, visit www.dar.org/grants.

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The Beckoning Mountains

*Experience the grandeur of the
Great Smoky Mountains, America's
Most-Visited National Park*

— By Megan Hamby —

T

he majestic peaks and valleys of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park lie along the border between Tennessee and North Carolina. The Southeast's not-so-hidden gem—with its ancient mountain peaks, acres of forest and miles of hiking trails—is part of the Appalachian Mountain Range and is the most-visited national park in the United States, celebrating 11 million visitors in 2016. (The Grand Canyon came in second, with 6 million visitors.)

Although the park was officially established in 1934, the area's history dates back thousands of years. The mountains were home to the Cherokee American Indians, indigenous

people of the Southeastern woodlands, for centuries. President Andrew Jackson's Indian Removal Act of 1830 forcibly removed the Cherokee from their land and pushed them west toward Oklahoma. (To learn more about their history in the Smoky Mountains, see sidebar on page 21.)

European settlers took their place. Life was primitive for these early 19th-century settlers, who adopted a lifestyle built on hunting, growing their own food and pasturing livestock. However, the arrival of the logging and lumber industry in the early 1900s changed the pattern of life in the region.

Establishing the National Park

The arrival of the logging industry drastically changed the



landscape of both the mountains and the area's economy. By the mid-1920s, more than 300,000 acres of forest in both Tennessee and North Carolina had been cut down. Once agriculture-based, the economy moved toward manufacturing and residents began to rely on store-bought goods.

Troubled by the destruction of the lush forest and inspired by the national parks of the West, Ann Davis, who later became the first woman from Knox County, Tenn., to serve in the Tennessee House of Representatives, suggested a bold idea to protect the area: The Smoky Mountains should be turned into a national park.

In 1923, conservationists from both Knoxville, Tenn., and Asheville, N.C., formed the Great Smoky Mountains

Conservation Association (GSMCA). George Masa, a Japanese-born photographer, and Horace Kephart, a resident of the area known for his 1913 book, *Our Southern Highlanders: A Narrative of Adventure in the Southern Appalachians and a Study of Life Among the Mountaineers*, became close friends and partnered to develop maps for the region. Masa's images and Kephart's text were used in promotional materials for the proposed park.

In May 1926, President Calvin Coolidge signed a bill that allowed for the establishment of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, as well as the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia. However, the federal government could not buy land for national park use, so the GSMCA had to start raising funds.

By 1928, a total of \$5 million had been raised from various sources—funds from Tennessee and North Carolina governments, as well as money donated by individuals, private organizations and schoolchildren emptying their piggy banks. After reportedly being inspired by Kephart and Masa's work, philanthropist John D. Rockefeller Jr., donated the remaining \$5 million as a gift in memory of his late mother.

Even with \$10 million in hand, the land purchase was challenging for GSMCA. Lumber companies fought against the purchase, and many farmers were forced to leave their homesteads. Most residents were glad to take the money offered for their homes, though some expressed hostility and frustration.

In 1934, Tennessee and North Carolina transferred deeds for 300,000 acres of land to the federal government. The Civilian Conservation Corps, an agency created during the Depression to provide work and wages for unemployed young men, soon began restoring historic buildings in the mountains and developing facilities, such as trails, campgrounds and bridges, for public use.

Six years later, on September 2, 1940, the park was formally dedicated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The president stood astride the Tennessee-North Carolina state line at Newfound Gap, and said:

"Here in the Great Smokies, we have come together to dedicate these mountains, streams and forests, to the service of the millions of American people. We are living under governments that are proving their devotion to national parks. ...

"There are trees here that stood before our forefathers ever came to this continent; there are brooks that still run as clear as on the day the first pioneer cupped his hand and drank from them. In this Park, we shall conserve these trees, the pine, the red-bud, the dogwood, the azalea, the rhododendron, the trout and the thrush for the happiness of the American people."

Exploring the Park

Today, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, which visitors can enter from either Gatlinburg, Tenn., or Cherokee, N.C., is renowned for its wildlife diversity, boasting 1,600 different species of flowering plants and 100 native trees.

Although the timing of peak fall color depends on elevation, sugar maple, scarlet oak, sweetgum, red maple and hickory trees usually hit their colorful peak from mid-October to early November, changing from green to autumn gold, burnt orange and flaming red.

If you hike along one of the park's 150 designated hiking trails, you may see white-tailed deer, chipmunks, squirrels or one of more than 200 species of birds. Or you may be lucky (or unlucky!) to see what's become known as the symbol of the Smokies—the American black bear. Biologists believe about 1,500 black bears live within the boundaries of the park, making the park the largest bear habitat in the Eastern United States.

In addition to miles of hiking trails, the park's boundaries include more than 700 miles of streams, home to 67 kinds of fish, including some endangered species. And while the black bears may rule the forest, the 30 salamander species living in the region have earned it the name "Salamander Capital of the World."

Emerging From the Ashes

The Smoky Mountains are no stranger to heavy winds and storms. But on November 28, 2016, 90-mile-per-hour winds turned a 1.5-acre fire into a massive blaze that raged through more than 17,000 acres, killing 14 people, injuring

Smoky Mountain Bucket List



Dollywood

Country music icon Dolly Parton's Appalachian-themed amusement park is situated in the foothills of the Smokies in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. The park welcomes almost 2 million visitors from around the world annually. Catch one of the musical variety shows, visit a circa-1890s one-room schoolhouse and embrace your wild side on Daredevil Falls. www.dollywood.com

Clingmans Dome

Standing tall at 6,643 feet, Clingmans Dome is the highest peak in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Head to the observation tower at the summit to get a 360-degree view of the Smokies. On a clear day, you may be able to see about 100 miles. www.nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/clingmansdome.htm

Great Smoky Mountains Railroad

Experience the mountains by train on the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad, which departs from Bryson City, N.C. You'll travel through river gorges, across valleys and under tunnels carved



out of the mountains. www.gsmr.com

Newfound Gap Road

Take a scenic drive down Newfound Gap Road (US 441), a 31-mile stretch of road that travels through the park's center. Start in Gatlinburg, Tenn., and follow the signs to Cherokee, N.C. Don't miss the North Carolina-Tennessee State Line, where you can stand in two states at once. www.smokymountains.com/drives/newfound-gap-road

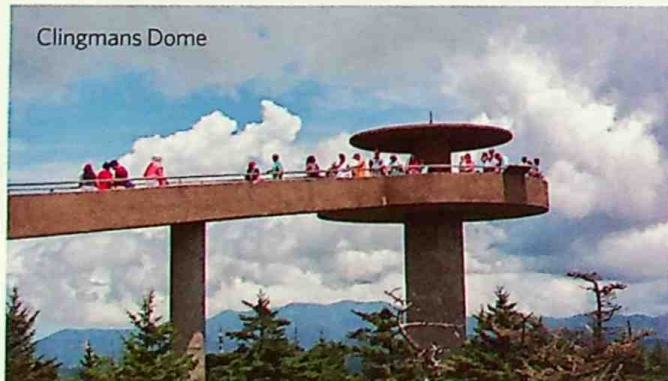
Cades Cove

Wildlife lovers will delight in Cades Cove, a beautiful and isolated valley surrounded by mountains in the Tennessee section of the park. White-tailed deer are

commonly seen, as well as black bears, coyotes, turkeys and other animals. Explore its historic buildings that date back to the early 1800s and learn about the valley's rich history. www.nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/cades Cove.htm

Great Smoky Arts and Crafts Community

Celebrating its 80th anniversary this year, the Great Smoky Arts and Crafts Community is one of the largest groups of independent artisans in North America. Visit the community to learn about folk art, handmade pottery, woven baskets, sculptures, lithographs and watercolor paintings, and pick up a souvenir. www.gatlinburgcrafts.com





In November 2016, a massive blaze raged through the Smoky Mountains, destroying 17,000 acres of forest.

“If you really want to do something for Gatlinburg, come back and visit us.”

– Mike Wener, Mayor, Gatlinburg, Tenn.

more than 100 and destroying more than 2,500 structures in the Gatlinburg area.

“It was heartbreaking,” said Ruth Davis, Chapter Regent of Spencer Clack DAR Chapter, Sevierville, Tenn., a town located on the outskirts of the national park.

Community members rallied together to host telethons, work at shelters and collect donations for people who lost their homes.

“Several DAR members, both from our chapter and others, volunteered at different centers,” Mrs. Davis said. “Two of our chapter members, Donna Allen and Helen Allen, were honored by the Rotary Club of Sevier County for their service. Each volunteered more than 300 hours at the Boyd’s Bears Warehouse, the main distribution center for victims of the wildfires.”

The Kate Duncan Smith DAR School in Grant, Ala., also played a unique role in helping the victims of the wildfires. Its sixth-grade students raised \$650 to send to Spencer Clack Chapter to be used to help the people of Gatlinburg.

“We decided to donate that money to the Pi Beta Phi Elementary School in Gatlinburg,” Mrs. Davis said. “The children at that school received letters from people around the nation, and they are eager to display them. Our chapter, along with the school’s principal, members of the National Park Service and business leaders in downtown Gatlinburg are in the process of creating a memory walk on the school’s campus. We will use the money donated from the Kate Duncan Smith School to help fund that project.”

Now, almost a year after the tragic wildfires, Gatlinburg—and the rest of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park—is looking forward to the future. In an interview with Knoxville news station WBIR, Gatlinburg Mayor Mike Werner encouraged people to return to the area.

“If you really want to do something for Gatlinburg, come back and visit us,” he said. 🌿

The People of Cherokee

In 1830, President Andrew Jackson’s Indian Removal Act forcibly removed the Cherokee Indians from their land in the Smoky Mountains, pushing them west toward Oklahoma.

When the first European settlers arrived in the 1500s, the Cherokee were living in villages of about 30–60 houses with a large council house. They were an agricultural people—women did the farming and harvesting work, and men hunted using bows and arrows.

By the early 1800s, the Cherokee had written a constitution and created their own court system and schools. Cherokee scholar and explorer Sequoyah developed an alphabet of 85 characters, helping the Cherokee people become literate in just a few years. By 1828, the Cherokee were publishing their own newspaper called the *Cherokee Phoenix*. Just a few years later, more than 16,000 Cherokee were forced to begin the long trek to Oklahoma along the Trail of Tears.

Today, about 9,000 members of the Cherokee tribe—descendants of those who were able to hold onto their land or those who hid in the hills—remain in the Qualla Boundary, a 57,000-acre land trust near Cherokee, N.C.

While in Cherokee, visit the following places to learn more about the Eastern Band of Cherokee and their centuries-long history in the Smoky Mountains.

Museum of the Cherokee Indian

Learn more about the culture of the Cherokee American Indians, including their clothing, education, customs, villages, dwellings and government.

www.cherokeemuseum.org

Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual

This year-round attraction showcases the artistry of more than 250 members of the Cherokee tribe. Founded in 1946, Qualla Arts and Crafts is the nation’s oldest American Indian Cooperative, and it offers a large selection of baskets, pottery, wood and stone carving, beadwork and more. www.quallaartsandcrafts.com

Oconaluftee Indian Village

Discover what life was like for the Cherokee in the 1700s. Enjoy live reenactments and interactive demonstrations as you watch costumed interpreters hull canoes, make pottery, weave baskets and go about their daily activities. www.cherokeehistorical.org





PATRIOT VICTORY AT SARATOGA

— By Bill Hudgins —

HISTORY PIVOTED IN

1777

AT A TINY NEW YORK VILLAGE

THIS FALL MARKS THE 240TH ANNIVERSARY of the Revolutionary War Battle of Saratoga, the stunning American victory in New York state that ended Britain's campaign to divide New England from the rest of the rebellious Colonies.

British General John Burgoyne's surrender on October 17, 1777, to General Horatio Gates is often called the turning point of the Revolution. It bolstered flagging Patriot morale and proved Americans could win against the finest army in the world.

The victory helped persuade France to side with America and declare war on Great Britain, as did the Netherlands and Spain, turning a Colonial insurrection into a world war fought as far away as India. This crucially diverted British resources from America, as the English sought to protect their rich sugar and tea settlements.

GRANGER, NYC — ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

The battles near the village of Saratoga (now Schuylerville), N.Y., on September 19 and October 7, were the climax of what author Michael Logusz describes as “The Wilderness War of 1777.” The campaign ranged from the Canadian border to New York City, from Oswego, N.Y., to New Hampshire, and parts of Connecticut and Massachusetts.

“What we call Saratoga was really a series of battles, skirmishes and maneuvers taking place across several weeks and considerable distance. The campaign as a whole lasted the better part of a year until Burgoyne’s final surrender at the hamlet of Saratoga,” Logusz writes in *With Musket and Tomahawk: The Saratoga Campaign and the Wilderness War of 1777* (Casemate Publishers, 2010).

Invasion Plans

The British campaign plan combined a proposal Burgoyne devised in 1775 while part of the army occupied Boston, with a similar scheme independently developed by General William Howe, Britain’s commander in America.

Burgoyne envisioned a two-prong attack—an army marching from Canada across Lake Champlain and Lake George that would rendezvous at or near Albany with a second naval

ships and resources they thought necessary. The plan also assumed three widely separated armies could somehow coordinate their movements with only the most limited means of communication, according to Dean R. Snow, author of *1777: Tipping Point at Saratoga* (Oxford, 2017).

Perhaps most important, the planners overlooked the challenge of men who knew little or nothing about America trekking through a vast wilderness, both Snow and Logusz write. Europe’s forests were nothing like America’s forboding, seemingly endless tracts. The American wilderness teemed with bears, wildcats, snakes, clouds of biting flies and mosquitoes, and swamps—not to mention hostile Patriots and American Indian allies who constantly goaded the British.

Destination: Albany

Burgoyne left Canada in mid-June, heading down Lake Champlain toward his first target, Fort Ticonderoga. He had planned to lead an army of 10,000 British, German and Canadian soldiers, American Loyalists, American Indian allies, camp followers and others. Burgoyne was confident more Loyalists would join or help supply him en route.

But he ran into trouble even before casting off—Canada’s

Governor Guy Carleton decided to withhold some of the promised Canadian troops. Patriots also delayed the arrival of some supplies by destroying bridges and attacking convoys.

Burgoyne reached Fort Ticonderoga on July 1, 1777, and attacked the next day. The Patriot garrison under Major General Arthur St. Clair had prepared defenses, but they forgot about a steep bluff overlooking the fort. Burgoyne spotted the weakness and, working through the night,

his men scaled the bluff and aimed cannon directly at the fort.

St. Clair realized his position was now indefensible. In a controversial decision that would haunt him the rest of his life, he began a nighttime withdrawal on July 5–6, saving much of his force. However, his departure was detected and fighting erupted between the British and St. Clair’s rearguard.

Burgoyne left 900 men to hold Fort Ticonderoga and sent General Samuel Fraser to pursue the Patriot rearguard. They caught the Patriots at Hubbardton, Vt., and both sides took heavy casualties in the ensuing battle before the outgunned Americans retreated into the forest. The British captured more than 200 prisoners, but their victory was costly: While the Patriots could replace their losses, Burgoyne could not.

Burgoyne’s force dwindled and food ran low as his supply lines to Canada became increasingly tenuous. Loyalist support

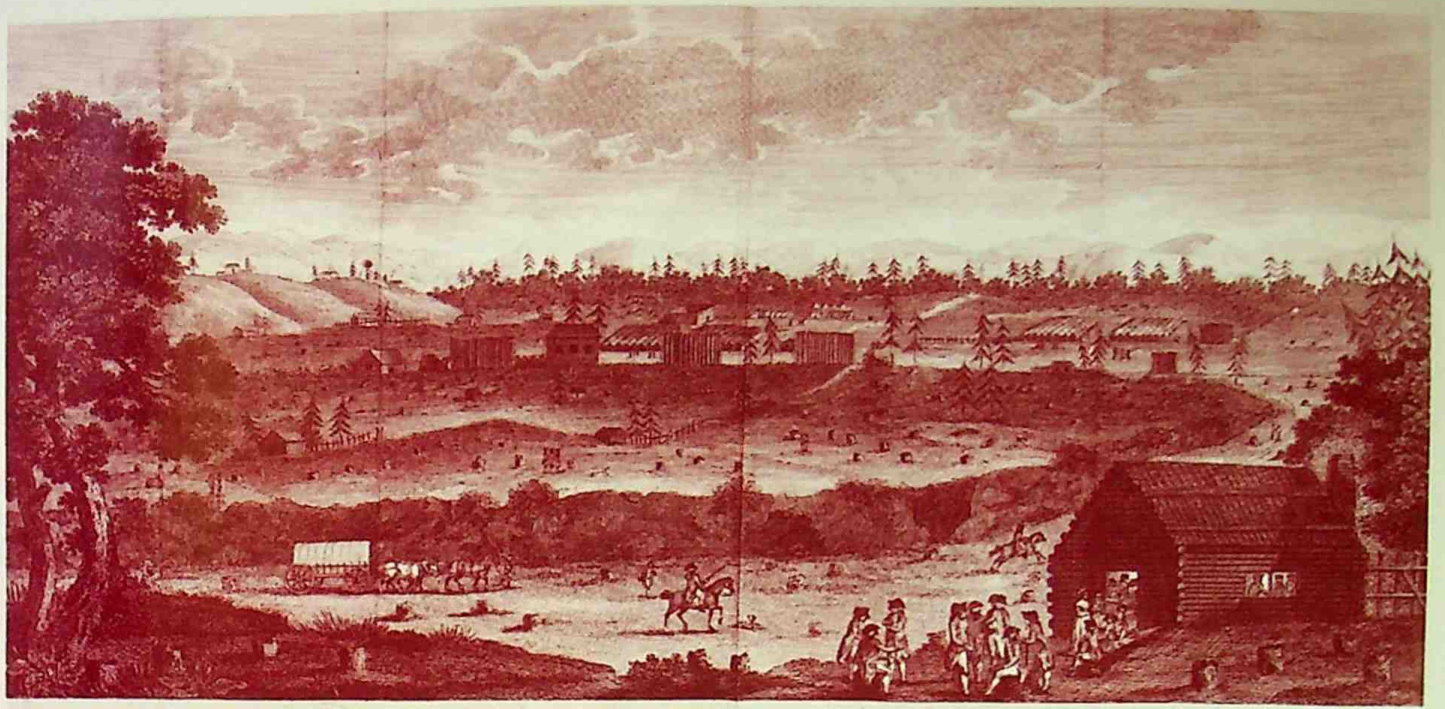
“Frequently, when Burgoyne’s soldiers or irregulars were dispatched with wagons to secure supplies from local inhabitants, they not only returned empty-handed, but also with their wagons piled with their own dead and wounded.”

—Michael Logusz, *With Musket and Tomahawk: The Saratoga Campaign and the Wilderness War of 1777*

and ground force moving up the Hudson River Valley from New York City. Howe added a third force that would march eastward from Oswego, N.Y., to Albany. Though not yet the capital of New York, Albany was on the site of an important river and land junction whose capture could isolate New England.

In late 1776 King George III and his ministers authorized the three-prong plan for 1777. Burgoyne would lead the army from Canada, Howe would fight his way up the Hudson, and Brigadier General Barry St. Leger would march from Oswego to Albany. The British commanders believed this would force the Patriots to split their northern army into three parts. This would give the professional British and German troops the upper hand against a far less trained and equipped foe.

The plan looked good on maps spread upon tables in far-away London—but the commanders lacked the manpower,



ENCAMPMENT of the CONVENTION ARMY
at Charlotte Ville in Virginia after they had surrendered to the Americans
Engraved as the best direct picture by William Dawkins London

A 1789 English line engraving shows remnants of the defeated British army interned at Charlottesville after General Burgoyne's surrender at the Battle of Saratoga, N.Y., October 17, 1777.

failed to materialize, and Patriots began destroying crops, hiding livestock and attacking foraging parties.

"Frequently, when Burgoyne's soldiers or irregulars were dispatched with wagons to secure supplies from local inhabitants, they not only returned empty-handed but also with their wagons piled with their own dead and wounded," Logusz writes.

British Plans Go Awry

As the British army neared Bennington, Vt., Burgoyne sent nearly 1,000 men, mostly Hessians, to raid the area for food, livestock and other supplies. They were unaware Patriot forces made up of about 2,000 Massachusetts and New Hampshire militia under Brigadier John Stark were camped there.

The Patriots attacked and soon surrounded the smaller force, killing its commander and a number of soldiers while taking many prisoners. Reinforcements for both sides began arriving, and the battle intensified until the Patriots repelled the enemy.

The Battle of Bennington cost Burgoyne nearly 1,000 men—about a sixth of his total force—with nothing to show for it. The defeat disheartened many of the Canadian, Loyalist and American Indian fighters, who began to desert.

As Burgoyne moved southward, he received word from General Howe, who changed his mind about the campaign's effectiveness. Howe now believed capturing the Patriot capital at Philadelphia could end the war. Washington would

certainly rush to the city's defense, where he could be defeated in the open field, Howe reasoned.

Howe announced his plans to sail from New York City to Philadelphia, leaving his second-in-command, General Henry Clinton, to protect the city while also giving what aid he could to Burgoyne. Though Clinton would later capture some American forts on the river, he never got close enough to help Burgoyne.

Patriot Preparations

While the British commanders struggled, the Patriot Northern Army had been slowly pulling back along the Hudson River, looking for a suitable place to make a stand. General Philip Schuyler had led the Army until Congress replaced him with General Horatio Gates, who took command on August 19.

As the Patriots moved south, they destroyed bridges and felled enormous trees across paths to slow the British advance to a few miles a day. Ambushes and nighttime raids on the British demoralized the weary soldiers.

As Burgoyne's army grew weaker, the Northern Army strengthened. Militia units, Continental Army soldiers, settlers and warriors from the Oneida nation came to fight the British. Patriot supply lines were secure and, for once, there were plenty of supplies including food and ammunition.

In early September, the Patriot army arrived at Saratoga. A couple miles south of the village they discovered a ridge of bluffs

called Bemis Heights that overlooked the Hudson River. Gates began fortifying the Heights with cannon and protective walls while also constructing defensive lines from the Heights to the river, Snow said. The fortifications and terrain would funnel the British straight to the artillery of the growing American army.

This would be ideal for Gates, who planned a defensive operation to halt the British advance. With winter coming, British supplies growing desperately shorter and an entrenched foe blocking the only road forward, Gates hoped Burgoyne would withdraw to Canada.

First Battle of Saratoga

The first Battle of Saratoga, also called the Battle of Freeman's Farm, took place on September 19, 1777. Burgoyne had divided his army into three parts. One part was supposed

to go west and then south along the American flank, while the German troops occupied the river road and also protected the British supplies. The middle column probed directly southward and encountered Colonel Daniel Morgan's sharpshooting riflemen at a farm owned by Loyalist John Freeman.

The fighting escalated quickly, as each side sent more men into the fray. This was not the defensive battle Gates wanted, but his subordinates, especially General Benedict Arnold, pressed him to commit new forces. Exasperated with Gates' seeming lack of aggression, Arnold disobeyed orders to remain at headquarters and rode onto the field to direct his men.

But Gates was cautious because he had a secret—the Patriots were low on gunpowder and musket balls. He anticipated resupply soon, but what if the British attacked again the next day and the Americans ran out?

Women at War

As the wife of Baron Friedrich Riedesel, commander of the German forces at the Battle of Saratoga, Frederika Riedesel had accompanied her husband to war. Riding in a small coach called a calash, she and their daughters, ages 6, 3 and 1, expected a quick, complete victory over the untrained Americans. Instead, they witnessed a historic humiliation and came under fire themselves while hiding from bombardment in a farmhouse basement.

Frederika was one of hundreds of women present on both sides at Saratoga. More than 1,000 wives, camp followers and non-combatants moved with the British-German force, said Dean Snow, author of 1777: *Tipping Point at Saratoga*. An unknown number of women attended the American soldiers, though probably fewer than on the British side.

Most of the women are anonymous, though some are remembered for their

deeds. During the siege of Saratoga, for example, a woman with the British army braved Yankee guns to fetch water for desperately thirsty men.

During the stalemate, Frederika and other officers' wives nursed and comforted the wounded and tried to lighten the increasingly glum atmosphere.

Frederika also kept a journal of the battle, which became an important source for historians, Snow said. She

privately fumed at the snobbery of most of the British officers and their wives, and Burgoyne's seeming lack of initiative and valor during the army's abortive withdrawal.

On October 8, the day after the Battle of Bemis Heights, she and her children and two servants were relocated

to a home then called the Lansing House in Saratoga. Two days later American artillery on the opposite bank of the Hudson opened fire on the bedraggled British camp, including the Lansing house, which they mistakenly thought was Burgoyne's headquarters.

The house was actually filled with wounded men, Snow said. For three days, Frederika and her party and many of the wounded hid in the basement.

She continued to nurse the wounded while cannonballs battered the house.

Frederika had heard horror stories about the barbarian Americans and was terrified about surrendering to them. So she was stunned that the victorious Patriots did not abuse their captives. She and Friedrich spent a year in a Boston prison before being exchanged for American prisoners and returning to England.

Frederika had also been a source of comfort to Harriet Acland, whose officer husband, John, was wounded at the Battle of Hubbardton. Acland left Canada to tend to him, and she refused to leave her husband once he recovered. He was wounded again on October 7 and taken prisoner by the Americans. Frederika repeatedly urged Acland to get Burgoyne's permission to join her husband. Eventually she did so and was reunited with John. He recovered, and they returned to England where, a year later, he was killed in a duel with a British officer who had disparaged the Americans at a dinner party.

Learn more about women in the Revolutionary War at the Museum of the American Revolution's new exhibit, "The Darkest Hour": www.amrevmuseum.org/exhibits/darkest-hour.



The battle ended with the British holding the field, though barely. The Americans had fought astonishingly well and inflicted far more casualties on the British than they suffered. On September 20, Burgoyne decided to rest his fatigued troops rather than renew the battle, and Gates was happy to remain behind his still incomplete defenses. Even better, supply wagons laden with ammunition and other necessities rattled into the Patriot camp, relieving that crisis.

Almost nothing went right for the British during the next two weeks. Food for men and animals ran low, and American sharpshooters picked off unlucky foragers. Constant skirmishing killed or captured more British fighters. British and Hessian soldiers began deserting as did the Loyalists, American Indians and other irregulars.

Burgoyne—whose high-living ways had earned him the nickname of “Gentleman Johnny” and whose personal stores included cases of champagne—put the men on half-rations and continued to hope to hear that Clinton was on his way to threaten the American rear, Snow said.

Battle of Bemis Heights

The second Battle of Saratoga, also called the Battle of Bemis Heights, took place on October 7. With his 6,800 men hungry and little chance of relief from Clinton, Burgoyne ordered a “reconnaissance in force” toward Bemis Heights. He hoped the 1,500-man force would find a weak point that would allow Burgoyne to break out of the trap.

Gates had more than 13,000 men now and attacked the British. The outnumbered foe fought fiercely, but the Americans dominated the field. Benedict Arnold, whom Gates had stripped of command for his earlier disobedience, nevertheless charged again onto the battlefield. He dashed among the American units urging the men on until he was severely wounded in the leg and had to be carried back to the American lines.

After the battle, Gates sent men from his growing army up the east side of the Hudson River across from the British camp, while militia from New Hampshire and Vermont sealed off a northward retreat. The end had come for Burgoyne and his army.

The next day, October 8, Burgoyne acceded to the wishes of his generals and ordered a belated retreat northward. But by now, the British were surrounded. Burgoyne reluctantly began surrender talks and, on October 17, his men laid down their arms and marched into the American camp. To their surprise, the victorious Patriots neither mocked nor abused them. Instead, the Americans fed the starving soldiers, and medical personnel tended to their wounds.



A 19th-century colored engraving shows Benedict Arnold defending himself after being wounded and falling from his horse at the second Battle of Saratoga on October 7, 1777.

In the end, British arrogance, indecision and miscalculation, jealousies and infighting among the commanders doomed the ambitious campaign from the start, Snow said.

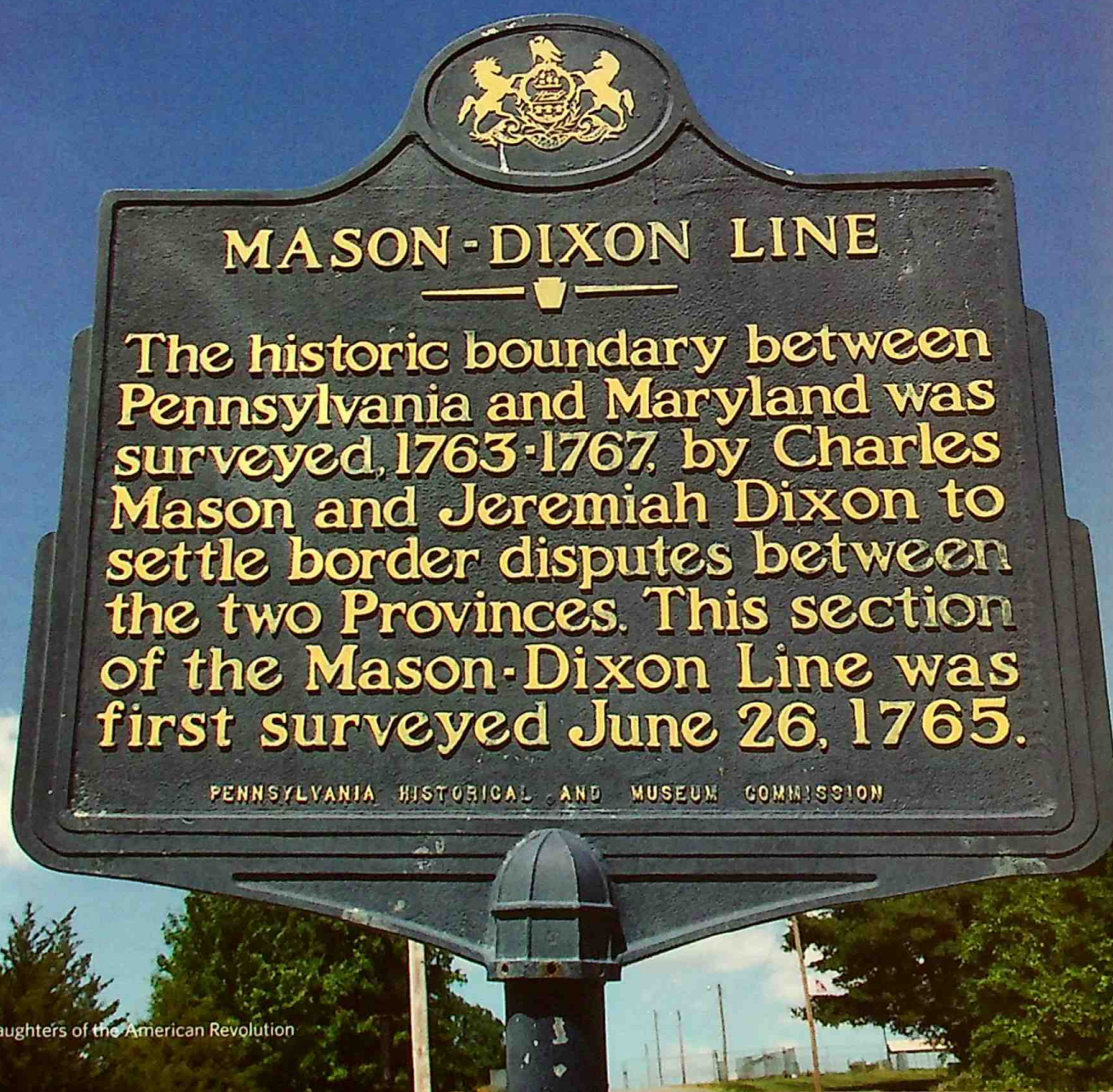
It's fascinating to wonder how history might have changed had Gates simply halted Burgoyne's advance and allowed the British to go back to Canada, instead of trouncing them. As Snow said, "The French might not have come in on our side, which would have made things very difficult. There would have been no counter to the British navy, far fewer supplies and perhaps fewer loans to pay for the war." And perhaps a failed revolution. ❁

A companion website to Dean Snow's 1777: Tipping Point at Saratoga provides maps, tour stops at the national park and other information about the battles. Visit the site at <https://tinyurl.com/yd8eohyz>. Snow will discuss his work at the DAR Library in Washington, D.C., on September 23, 2017.

DRAWN FROM IMAGINATION

MASON AND DIXON'S LINE ACROSS THE LAND

— By Courtney Peter —





PURESTOCK / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

Like trans-Atlantic mediators sent to settle a squabble between unruly children, astronomer Charles Mason and surveyor Jeremiah Dixon left England for the Colonies to resolve a decades-long dispute over the boundary between Maryland and Pennsylvania. The two viewed their task as an opportunity to advance scientific knowledge of the physical world, while simultaneously fostering peace. They had no idea that the line bearing their names would come to symbolize a divide much greater than that between Colonies.

“Now, people think of the Mason-Dixon Line as the division between North and South, and Jeremiah Dixon and Charles Mason get lost in that,” said Todd Babcock, surveyor and former co-chairman of the Mason & Dixon Line Preservation Partnership. “In so many ways, they helped to build the foundation of what I do today as a surveyor.”

Tying the significance of the Mason-Dixon Line exclusively to the Civil War era discounts the conflict that led to its creation, as well as the two Englishmen who translated an invisible line of latitude into a physical demarcation on the surface of the Earth. This October marks 250 years since Mason and Dixon completed their survey, offering a chance to appreciate the historic feat anew.

Uncharted Borders

Boundary disputes were common in Colonial America. Inaccurate maps were partly to blame, as was a lack of firsthand knowledge of the land.

British royals bestowed land grants upon wealthy proprietors having never visited the territory in question; in some cases, the recipients hadn't seen it either. Inevitably, ambiguities and overlaps resulted.

One longstanding point of contention concerned the border between Maryland and Pennsylvania. The royal charter of June 20, 1632, granting Cecilius Calvert possession of Maryland conveyed territory from the southern bank of the Potomac River to the 40th degree of north latitude. On March 4, 1681, William Penn was granted land west of New York and New Jersey and north of Maryland. Penn's title to the three lower counties making up present-day Delaware followed several months later.

A proactive agreement could have drastically reduced confusion over the complicated Maryland-Pennsylvania border involving an east-west line following the 40th parallel, a north-south line bisecting the Delmarva peninsula, and a 12-mile circle drawn around the town of New Castle. Foregoing such measures, the Colonies instead plunged into an 80-year stalemate.

Disputed issues included the location of the 40th parallel, which early maps placed too far south, and the fact that the 12-mile circle didn't align with the 40th parallel as intended. In 1732, a committee of boundary commissioners declared the northern border of Maryland to lie 15 miles south of Philadelphia, swapping one invisible line for another. The results of multiple ensuing surveys were rejected on grounds



A 19th-century wood engraving of Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon surveying the boundary line between Pennsylvania and Maryland.

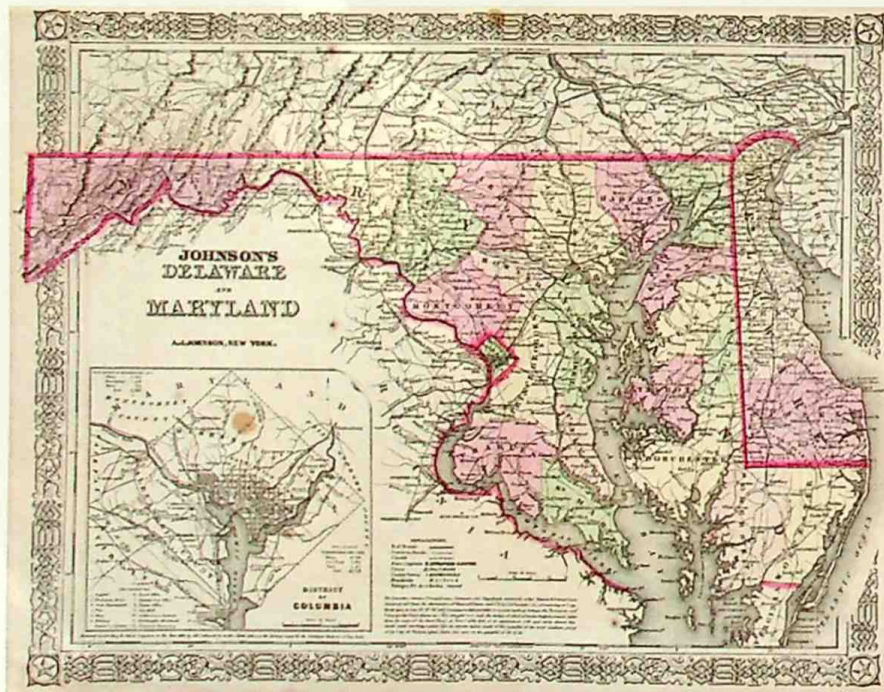
of inaccuracy or favoritism. As the conflict dragged on, the cost of litigation fees and uncollected taxes mounted.

Meanwhile, the territory in question was home to a number of settlers living in limbo. Encroachment upon private property ignited violent attacks by residents on both sides of the border, most notably in the 1730s during Cresap's War, named for frontiersman, trader and Maryland land agent Thomas Cresap. American Indian backlash against the westward progress of European settlement provided additional cause for concern. Still, the royal governors, boundary commissioners and the British Court of Chancery failed to impose order.

Surveying the Scene

Finally, the Calvert and Penn families hired a pair of experts from England: astronomer Charles Mason and surveyor Jeremiah Dixon. On behalf of the Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge, the two had observed the 1761 transit of Venus from the Cape of Good Hope. The high-profile expedition helped them land the border survey job.

Mason and Dixon arrived in America in November 1763 and soon met with the boundary commissioners, who relayed instructions for defining the borders between Maryland and Pennsylvania, as well as present-day Delaware's boundaries with those two states. Some backtracking was required before they could begin. For



This 1864 hand-colored map shows Maryland and Delaware, and the Mason-Dixon line marking the geographical divide between the North and South.

example, the Maryland-Pennsylvania border was to follow a line of latitude 15 miles south of Philadelphia's southernmost point, but that point had not been defined. Technical challenges, the dangers of the western frontier, and strained relations between Britain, the Colonies and the American Indians further complicated the task.

Artificial, straight-line boundaries may look more orderly than jagged natural borders, but in the 18th century, delineating them precisely was extremely difficult. This proved true even for experts with access to the latest tools, such as the two instruments William Penn commissioned from renowned London craftsman John Bird.

The instruments scored high marks for accuracy, but not for ease of operation. Bird's zenith sector determined position relative to the stars, but it involved lying on the ground at night and peering through the eyepiece of a 6-foot telescope. Mason and Dixon collected data for seven to 10 clear nights to obtain an accurate reading at a single location. (Cloudy skies rendered astronomical observation impossible.) Then, they performed calculations to adjust for factors such as the earth's rotation and the refraction of the atmosphere.

From 1764 to 1767, the surveying party convened in the spring and worked through to fall. Mason and Dixon mea-

Artificial, straight-line boundaries may look more orderly than jagged natural borders, but in the 18th century, delineating them precisely was extremely difficult.

sured the boundaries one 66-foot Gunter's chain length at a time, stopping regularly to record observations and calibrate their equipment. As the line moved farther west, the crew swelled from less than 10 to 115, including ax men hired to clear an 8-yard-wide line through the trees. "It was like a small army going through the forest," Babcock said.

In the fall, Mason and Dixon double-checked their work on the way back east, setting mile markers made of imported limestone as they went—simple stones to mark each mile, and more ornate crown stones placed at 5-mile intervals. The winter months were spent meeting with the boundary

Mason and Dixon's Line Turns 250

October 13-15, 2017

md250.exploretheline.com

In October, Mason-Dixon Historical Park will host a celebration marking the 250th anniversary of the completion of Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon's survey. The multi-day event spanning approximately 6 miles between Mount Morris, Pa., and Core, W.Va., will include a day of instruction for young aspiring surveyors and a Saturday evening star party. Hikers can travel up Brown's Hill to an 1883 monument placed at the site of Mason and Dixon's final marker. Attendees can also enjoy speakers, food, music, arts and crafts, a quilt show, historic surveying demonstrations, and more.

Drawing the Line: How Mason and Dixon Surveyed the Most Famous Border in America (John Wiley & Sons Inc., 2017).

The line does not trace a degree of latitude as faithfully as persistent myth suggests, however. Mason and Dixon's stone markers deviate from the intended line by as many as 900 feet, due primarily to gravitational variations unknown at the time. "Our cell phones are more accurate than what they had to work with back then," Babcock said. "Now I can go out with modern global positioning survey equipment and get a position accurate to a centimeter in a matter of seconds."

Mason and Dixon remained in America until September 1768 to finalize dealings with the boundary commissioners, produce maps of the surveyed areas and work on a prestigious bonus project for the Royal Society: measuring the ground distance of a degree of latitude. They returned to England in mid-October, only to leave again months later to observe the 1769 transit of Venus—Mason from Northern Ireland, Dixon from Norway. But no subsequent work overtook the historical impact of their nearly five years spent in America, transforming imaginary lines into borders set in stone. 🌿

commissioners, conducting additional observations on behalf of the Royal Society, reviewing their work and, at least in Mason's case, exploring the American countryside on horseback.

The 1767 surveying season began amid uncertainty over how far to continue past the Allegheny Mountains, into territory declared off limits to European settlement in an effort to ease tension with the American Indians. Ultimately, progress halted at Brown's Hill near Mount Morris, Pa., when the party's American Indian guides refused to continue. Mason and Dixon concluded their final zenith sector observations on October 17, 1767.

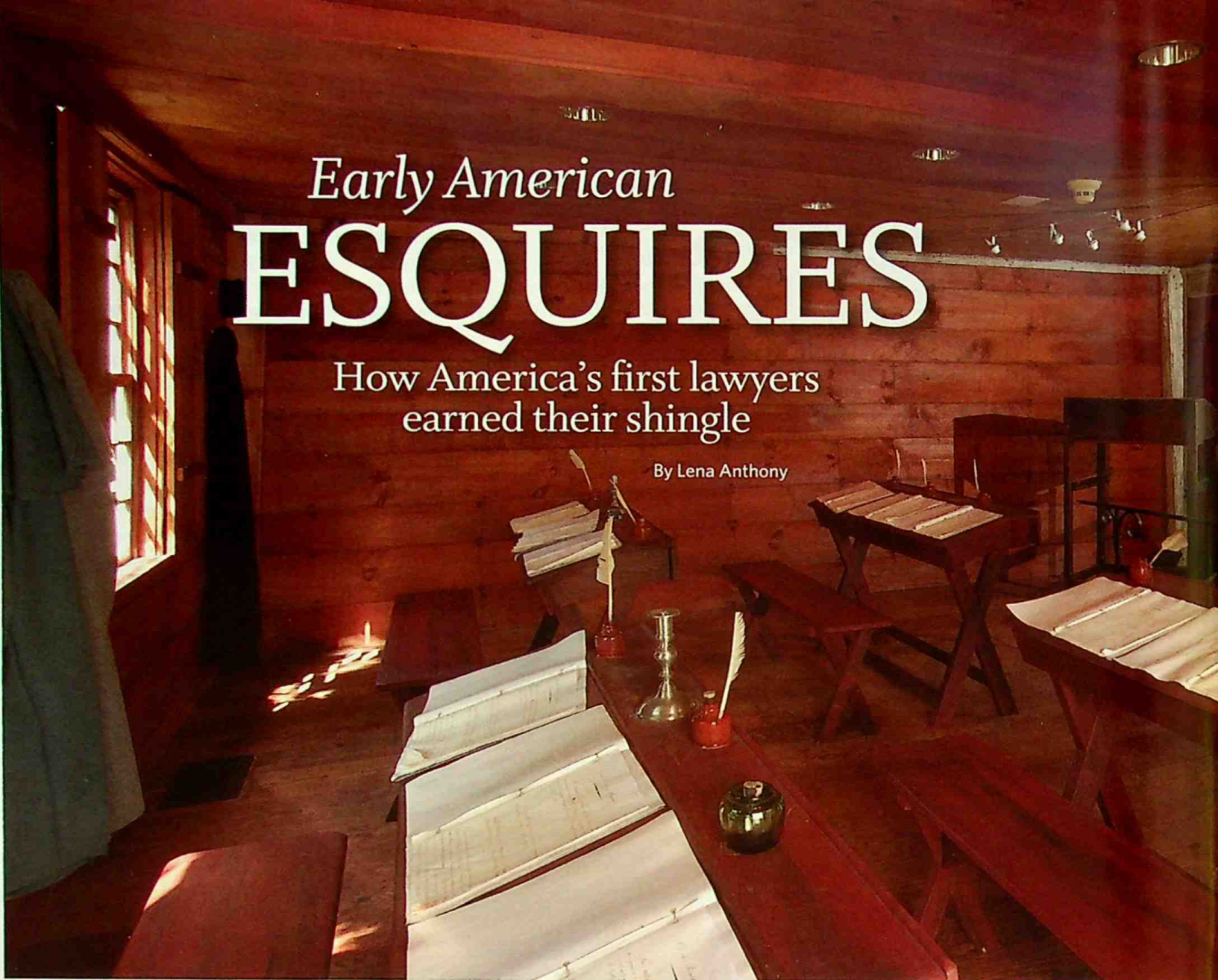
Their Mark on the World

Despite stopping 31 miles short of Pennsylvania's western border, a shortfall remedied by David Rittenhouse and Andrew Ellicott in 1784, the survey represented a historic achievement. "The Mason-Dixon Line was the 18th century's most ambitious border survey, a perfect curve of latitude, 245 miles from end to end," wrote Edwin Danson in

Early American ESQUIRES

How America's first lawyers
earned their shingle

By Lena Anthony



Tapping Reeve, above, and George Wythe, right, were early American law instructors.



Nearly half of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution were lawyers by trade. The typical path to becoming a lawyer today involves four years of college, three years of law school and a couple of months dedicated to studying for—and passing—the bar exam. But that isn't how America's first lawyers mastered the profession. Back then, there were no law schools. The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va., didn't hire its first law professor, George Wythe, until 1779. Tapping Reeve opened what is believed to be the first law school, the one-room Litchfield Law School, in Connecticut in 1784.

'A Necessary Evil'

As a general rule, America's first European settlers disliked lawyers. "There were few lawyers among the settlers," writes Lawrence M. Friedman in *A History of American Law* (Touchstone, 2005). "In some Colonies, lawyers were distinctly unwelcome."

In Massachusetts, for example, "pleading for hire" was prohibited; in Virginia and Connecticut, lawyers were banned from courts.

According to Friedman, this distrust in lawyers had many causes. Puritans brought with them utopian ideals that saw no place for lawyers. Colonists who had been



Opposite page and left: The interior and exterior of Litchfield Law School, constructed by lawyer and law educator Tapping Reeve in 1784. The building stands today in its original location, south of Reeve's house on South Street in Litchfield, Conn. **Below:** The George Wythe House in Colonial Williamsburg, Va.



One of the Inns of Court, the Middle Temple, was most popular among students from the American Colonies, particularly the Carolinas.

"The Inn's records would lead one to suppose that for a time there was hardly a young gentleman in Charleston who had not studied here," according to the Middle Temple website.

Six signers of the Declaration of Independence studied at the Inns of Court: William Paca of Maryland; Thomas McKean, a Delaware delegate; and Thomas Lynch Jr., Thomas Heyward Jr., Arthur Middleton and Edward Rutledge from South Carolina.

Seven signers of the U.S. Constitution were "Templars," another name for someone who studied at Middle Temple. These included John Blair Jr. of Virginia, John Dickinson of Delaware, Jared Ingersoll of Pennsylvania, William Livingston of New Jersey, and three South Carolina delegates, Charles Pinckney, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney and John Rutledge.

Learning the Ropes in America

If American lawyers couldn't afford or didn't want to travel to England to train at the Inns, they had access to the next best thing: four volumes of the *Commentaries on the Laws of England*, written by William Blackstone and published between 1765 and 1769.

"He never visited America, yet more than anyone he influenced the development of the law in America," writes Anthony

oppressed in England distrusted all government servants, not just lawyers, and preferred to run their affairs without intermediaries. To the Quakers, lawyers seemed too adversarial for their society founded on peace and tranquility.

These sentiments persisted through much of the 18th century. But as the Colonies grew and commerce and trade flourished, the colonists' objection to lawyers was overruled.

"The lawyers were, in the end, a necessary evil," Friedman writes.

Legal Ties to England

Many of America's first lawyers trained in London, at one of four Inns of Court, which were societies established in the middle of the 14th century dedicated to educating law students. They were places where lawyers could study common law at extensive libraries, practice law and, in some cases, live.

Arlidge in *The Lawyers Who Made America: From Jamestown to the White House* (Hart Publishing, 2017).

The first American edition of Blackstone's works was published by John Bell of Philadelphia in 1772. "Before publication it had achieved 1,600 subscribers," Arlidge writes. "Sixteen of them became signatories of the Declaration of Independence and six were framers of the Constitution."

Each Colony had its own way of determining eligibility for admission to the bar, and that generally meant the completion of an apprenticeship and a recommendation from a practicing lawyer. By the mid-18th century, most Colonies also employed an oral bar exam. The first written one, which consisted mainly of essays, didn't arrive until the late 19th century. The rigorous multi-day bar exam that prospective lawyers take today was created in 1972.

According to Friedman, the apprenticeship system wasn't just designed to educate new lawyers about the law; it was also a way to control who entered the bar. "It kept the bar small; and older lawyers were in firm command," he writes.

There were a few standards for the apprenticeship. Generally, the student would pay a fee to a practicing attorney. In exchange, the attorney would train the apprentice and in some cases provide food and lodging, too.

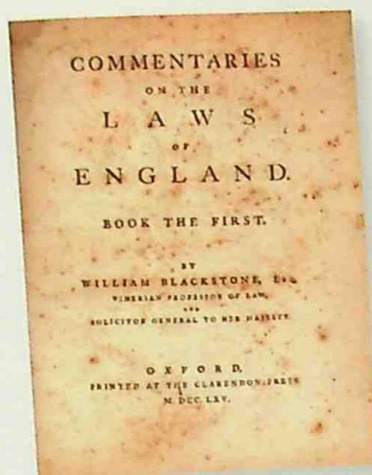
What's the bar?

It's a collective term to describe the legal profession as a whole, but it's also a wooden barrier in old courtrooms separating the public (and law students) from the lawyers who had business with the court. When lawyers were called to the bar, then they were allowed to practice law.

Some apprenticeships, on the other hand, were very worthwhile. "The first law schools ... grew out of law offices that became so good at teaching that they gave up practice entirely," Friedman notes.

Apprenticeships lasted a few to several years, depending on the education of the student prior to becoming an apprentice. In general, if a student had a formal education (even if it wasn't specifically in the law), apprenticeships were shorter; for self-taught students, apprenticeships tended to be longer.

John Adams, who went to Harvard University and started his career as a schoolteacher, completed an apprenticeship in two years, according to Arlidge. Thomas Jefferson, who went to the College of William and Mary, studied under George Wythe for five years before being admitted to the bar in 1767.



"[William Blackstone] never visited America, yet more than anyone he influenced the development of the law in America."

Commentaries on the Laws of England by William Blackstone

(For more on Wythe, considered the father of American law, check out the January/February 2014 issue of *American Spirit*.)

In some cases, lawyers skipped the apprenticeship altogether. Roger Sherman, another member of the committee who drafted the Declaration of Independence, had no formal legal training. He was still recommended for the Connecticut bar, which he joined in 1754, at the age of 33.

During and after the Revolutionary War, requirements for bar admission began to change. With fewer practicing lawyers available to train apprentices, education became the more important prerequisite. Alexander Hamilton, for example, studied at King's College (now Columbia University) before entering the Continental Army. After the war, the New York bar excused him from the apprenticeship requirement and gave him an extended period to study for the bar exam.

"To help his studies, he wrote out a manual summarizing procedure under headings such as Process, Joint Actions, Judgment, Execution, Pleas, Venue," Arlidge writes. "It ran to 40,000 words and in 1790 was published and became a standard manual for New York lawyers."

Lawyers and the Founding of a Country

In *The Founding Lawyers and America's Quest for Justice* (Pound Civil Justice Institute, 2010), Stuart Speiser identifies 38 "Founding Lawyers," whose names include the well-known—Adams, Hamilton, Jefferson and John Jay—and the lesser-known, such as Theophilus Parsons of Massachusetts, Abraham Baldwin of Georgia and David Brearley of New Jersey. These founding lawyers, Speiser writes, were responsible for the "deft legal maneuvering" that led to the adoption of the U.S. Constitution.

"As lawyers it was part of their professional study and practice to deal extensively with the defects and excesses of human nature, such as duplicity and thirst for power," he writes. "This experience and insight equipped them to ferret out the vulnerabilities that might be exploited to manipulate the prospective new government into tyranny—and how those vulnerabilities might be neutralized by artfully designing the separation of powers and specific checks and balances. ...

"The tasks handed to the Founding Lawyers were strikingly similar to those routinely assigned to lawyers since time immemorial: Clean up this mess." 🍷



BURN, BRAND, HANG, SHAME

Early American Penalties for Criminals By Nancy Mann Jackson

In Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*, Hester Prynne's punishment for adultery is to wear the letter "A" around her neck. Such public shaming, as immortalized in his classic novel, was a reality for many in Colonial America.

The red A wasn't the only alphabetical punishment in the Colonies: Others were marked with "B" for blasphemy, "D" for drunk, "F" for fighter, "M" for manslaughter, "R" for rogue and "T" for thief, writes Scott Christianson, a journalist and author who was focused on criminal justice, prisons and the death penalty.

Today, incarceration is often automatically associated with crime and punishment. But that wasn't always the case in the western world. In Europe, criminals were given public punishments, and prison was not the usual sentence for more serious crimes until late 18th century. The Colonies followed this example.

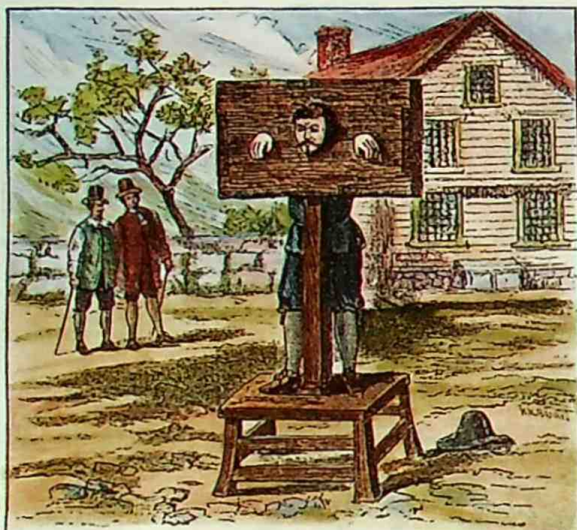
Punishing in the Square

Like the large letters hung around perpetrators' necks, there were plenty of other ways to publicly shame or degrade offenders of various crimes. For instance, many crimes were punished by placing offenders in a pillory—a wooden framework with holes for securing the head, hands and other body parts—where onlookers would taunt and pelt them with rotten food, mud, dead animals and animal excrement.

Violent criminals were sentenced to the gallows, where they were hanged in the public square. Punishments like these, intended for public humiliation, led to an almost festival-like atmosphere among other local residents. Not only would the onlookers yell, taunt and throw things, but they would also get a stark reminder of what would happen if they chose to break laws.

By 1700, public shaming was no longer as effective, because cities had grown larger and “public disgrace no longer had its desired effect,” writes Jack Lynch in the Summer 2011 issue of *Colonial Williamsburg Journal*.

When public humiliation fell out of vogue, physical chastisement became the punishment of choice in many Colonies. Some offenders were punished by



Above: Created in medieval times, the pillory was used for public humiliation and abuse. **Right:** A 1795 colored engraving by artist John Trumbull shows Tory stamp agents being tarred and feathered and carried in a cart during an anti-Stamp Act demonstration in 1765.

fines, whipping, branding with a hot iron or the loss of their ears.

Some punishments, such as tarring and feathering, were often used as forms of mob justice. For instance, in 1766, a mob tarred, feathered and dumped Captain William Smith into the harbor at Norfolk, Va. He was pulled out of the water just as his strength was waning. He was later quoted as saying they “dawbed my body and face all over with tar and afterwards threw feathers on me.” Smith was suspected of reporting smugglers to the British customs agents.

In Salem, Mass., the following year, mobs attacked low-level employees of the customs service with tar and feathers. In October 1769, a mob in Boston attacked a customs service sailor the same way, and a few similar attacks followed through 1774.

A large number of crimes were deemed capital offenses, such as robbery, treason, murder, burglary and sodomy. In England in May 1723, one law rendered 50 minor transgressions subject to the death penalty. Likewise, many Colonies also considered a large number of crimes to be capital offenses.



But in the years after the Revolution, most Colonies gradually reduced the number of death-penalty offenses on their books, both to distinguish from British practices and to achieve a higher ideal. In 1786, for instance, Pennsylvania eliminated the death penalty for robbery, burglary and sodomy. In a few years, only murderers were eligible for capital punishment.

In 1776, Thomas Jefferson proposed a bill to eliminate the death penalty for many crimes in Virginia. “On the subject of the Criminal law,” he wrote of the debate on his bill, “all were agreed, that the punishment of death should be abolished, except for treason and murder; and that, for other felonies, should be substituted hard labor in the public works.” His measure lost by one vote.

Evolving Toward Prison as Punishment

While types of imprisonment had existed for a long time, using confinement as the actual punishment was a new idea during Colonial times. For instance, a person might be imprisoned while he waited for the gallows to be ready to hang him—but simply being imprisoned as the punishment itself was unusual, except in the case of debtors' prisons.

Eventually, the public became more sensitive to the consequences of inflicting pain and degradation on their fellow human beings, and they looked for alternative ways to punish those who broke the law. By the time of the American Revolution, imprisonment as a form of punishment had become more common in the American Colonies, with prisons such as Connecticut's New-Gate Prison opening in 1773. (See related article on New-Gate on page 38.)

In 1787, a group of Philadelphians known as the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons met in Benjamin Franklin's home to discuss the idea of constructing a "house of repentance," which would isolate criminals to reform them. The group believed the idea would be an enlightened alternative to public punishments such as the gallows, stocks and whipping posts. According to a March 26, 2015, article in *The New York Times*, the ideas discussed in that salon led to the creation of Eastern State Penitentiary, one of the first modern prisons, more than 40 years later.

Enforcing the Laws

While the Colonies had plenty of rules and punishments, there was no professional police force to enforce those rules. Some cities instituted a "watch system," which was rather informal and communal, said Gary Potter, Ph.D., professor at the School of Justice Studies at Eastern Kentucky University. Boston created a night watch in 1636, followed by New York in 1658 and Philadelphia in 1700.

The watch system was made up of volunteers whose main role was to warn residents of impending danger. Watchmen—some of whom were "volunteering" as a form of punishment—often slept or drank on duty, so the watch "was not a particularly effective crime control device," Potter said.

It was 1833 before Philadelphia created the first day watch, followed by New York in 1844. By that time, New York had a new municipal police force, and the day watch was supplemental.

However, in the South, the development of a police force started earlier with the "Slave Patrol," Potter said. In the Carolina Colonies, the first formal slave patrol was formed in 1704. These patrols were intended to deter slaves from running away and breaking plantation rules. After the Civil War, the slave patrols evolved into police departments that were often focused on enforcing Jim Crow laws that kept freed slaves from having equal rights. 🌿



Now in ruins, Eastern State Penitentiary, built in 1829, was once the world's most famous prison. It was also known as the first true "penitentiary," a prison designed to inspire penitence in the hearts of prisoners.

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NEW-GATE PRISON

Connecticut's Caverns of Punishment

— By Nancy Mann Jackson —

Most Americans realize that those who sympathized with the British during the American Revolution were highly disdained throughout the Colonies. But few may realize that some Loyalists, along with British prisoners of war, were cast by their neighbors into dungeons of punishment, alongside murderers, thieves and other criminals.

One of the most notorious prisons that held political prisoners during the American Revolution was New-Gate Prison in East Granby, Conn. Once a copper mine and later a prison, New-Gate is now a national historic landmark, though it is presently closed for restoration.





A gate to the New-Gate Prison
in East Granby, Conn.

AN EARLY COLONIAL MINE

In 1705, residents of Simsbury, Conn., now part of East Granby, noted the presence of copper ore in the area. At a town meeting that year, residents authorized the Copper Hill Mines, what was likely the first chartered copper mining company in the New World. The mines were jointly owned by 64 local residents, and they used revenues from the mining operation to pay for town expenses, such as hiring a schoolmaster.

Eventually, speculators leased the mining rights of the original owners; their rent payment was a portion of the ore they mined. By the early 1770s, it had become increasingly difficult to locate copper ore deposits, and mining profits had dried up. As a result, the original owners of the mine sold the property to the Connecticut General Assembly to house the Colony's first prison.

CREATING A PRISON

In the earliest Colonial days, convicted criminals were rarely incarcerated; instead, they were sentenced to various forms of corporal punishment, such as whipping or branding. In May 1773, the Connecticut General Assembly appointed a committee to visit the inactive copper mine to decide if it could be used for the "purpose of confining, securing, and profitably employing criminals in lieu of the infamous punishments now appointed."

The 5-foot high tunnels that had been left behind by miners burrowing deep underground seemed like ideal spaces to house and reform serious criminals, such as burglars, horse thieves, counterfeiters and forgers. Here, male criminals could be put to work and perhaps be convinced to reform their behavior, rather than being tied to the whipping post. As a result, New-Gate, named after London's infamous Newgate Prison, became Connecticut's first prison in 1773.

Until the early 1970s, the only access into the mine was a ladder attached to the side of a vertical shaft more than 20 feet deep. That ladder provided the only access into "hell," as the caverns became known.

The site operated as a prison from 1773 to 1827 and could accommodate more than 100 prisoners in its caverns—which were divided into cells—at any one time. Some prisoners found ways to escape through the tunnels. For instance, the first prisoner, who arrived on December 22, 1773, escaped 18 days later by climbing up a rope that was lowered through one of the uncovered holes above the cavern, according to the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development's Offices of Culture and Tourism. Richard Steele, a "notorious villain and burglar," was the record-holder, boasting three escapes from New-Gate.

During the Revolutionary War, New-Gate began holding political prisoners. From 1775 to 1782, it held British soldiers,

Tories and other political offenders. The prisoners were usually housed underground, and sometimes were put to work in the mining operations. Eventually—when prison leaders realized that digging tools in the hands of prisoners could be a mistake—the prisoners worked at other jobs, such as making shoes, nails, wagons and baskets.

Known for its drafty, filthy tunnels, New-Gate was “undoubtedly the most horrible prison in the British North American Colonies,” wrote the National Park Service’s survey historian Charles Snell in the site’s National Register of Historic Places nomination form in 1972. Water constantly dripped from the rocks in the tunnels, and the caverns stank. William Stuart, a counterfeiter and former New-Gate prisoner wrote of the prison in his 1854 autobiography: “Armies of fleas, lice and bedbugs covered every inch of the floor, which itself was covered in five inches of slippery, stinking filth.”

From 1776 to 1827, New-Gate also served as Connecticut’s first state prison. While the mine and tunnels where the Revolutionary-era prisoners were held deep underground survived virtually intact, the state prison buildings built between 1790 and 1802 now stand in ruins. The buildings included blacksmith, cabinet, wagon and shoemaker’s shops, as well as the prison kitchen.

In 1827, New-Gate Prison was abandoned in favor of a new state prison that opened in Wethersfield. A few attempts to revive mining operations over the years were unsuccessful.

ONGOING RENOVATIONS

By the late 1960s, the New-Gate Prison and Copper Mine had fallen into ruins. The Connecticut Historical Commission acquired the property in 1968 and undertook extensive renovation projects to prepare the site to be opened to the public. The work included drilling a 75-foot slanting tunnel



to enable visitors to enter the mine by descending a staircase. An original shaft was fitted with a circular staircase to be used as an emergency exit. Workers also built a gatehouse and reception center; stabilized the ruins of an above-ground, four-story cell block; removed non-historic structures on the property; and restored the central guardhouse to hold a museum.

For many years, the prison and mine were open to the public, offering tours of the museum and the underground cells in the old copper mine. Since 2009, however, the former prison and mine have been closed to the public for more extensive renovations. The historic guardhouse, which is the only surviving structure from the prison complex, is under renovation for safety reasons. The portion of the building that was constructed in 1819 was built on an unsteady foundation of loose mine debris, which led to long-term structural problems. When the grounds closed, cracks in the stone walls of the guardhouse had widened significantly, bringing the building to the verge of collapse.

To preserve the structure, crews are inserting custom-made steel beams to hold up the building while a permanent support system is installed underneath it. The work involves many unknowns, and no completion date has been projected yet.



While renovations continue, the historic site remains a magnet of public interest. In October 2016, the East Granby Historical Society hosted a one-day open house at the prison grounds, drawing more than 1,500 visitors. While the mine remains off-limits, the event featured various 18th-century skills demonstrations, a video of the mine, historical interpreters and tours of the grounds. Across the street, Viets Tavern, the 18th-century home of the first prison warden, Captain John Viets, and his wife, Lois, was also open. (For more information about Viets Tavern, visit the Historic Buildings of Connecticut’s website: <http://historicbuildingsct.com/?p=8232>.)

Some walls still stand at the New-Gate Prison, built in 1773 on the site of an old copper mine. During the Revolutionary War, British soldiers and Loyalists were held captive there.

THE MAJOR BENJAMIN MAY HOUSE

A DAR Meeting Place Honors a North Carolina Patriot

Though Patriot Benjamin May's original home is no longer standing, one bearing his name now serves as a unique DAR meeting house. Built in 1938 in the small town of Farmville, N.C., 80 miles southeast of Raleigh, the square brick Georgian Revival house is also a popular spot for weddings, family reunions, concerts and receptions.

By Sharon McDonnell

"That we have such a home is especially unusual since this is such a small town, and our chapter only has 60 members," said Gay Davenport, past Chapter Regent of the Major Benjamin May DAR Chapter, which celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2016. Mrs. Davenport is a descendant, like many members, of the Patriot for whom their chapter is named.

A Pillar of the Community

A prosperous farmer, landowner and saddler, May was born in Scotland in 1736 or 1737. He emigrated to North Carolina in 1750, settling two miles west of what is now Farmville on the south side of Contentnea Creek. Other settlers, lured by the region's rich farmland, pine and marl forests and fresh water, arrived by the mid-1760s. Named a captain of the local regiment of the Pitt County militia in 1773, May was elected to the Pitt County Committee of Safety the next year. In 1775, he and 87 others signed the Halifax Declaration of Independence, a resolution criticizing the actions of the British government and supporting the Continental Congress while recognizing the sovereignty of King George III.

In 1776, May served as a Pitt County delegate to the North Carolina Provincial Congress. Later appointed major of his local regiment, he may have fought in the Battle of Guilford Courthouse in 1781, which was considered to be the biggest battle in the South during the Revolutionary War and a turning point for the Patriots. This skirmish near Greensboro, N.C.,

though technically a victory for the British, weakened the British Army, causing them to lose more than one-quarter of their troops, and forced a surrender under Lieutenant General Charles Cornwallis a mere seven months later in Yorktown, Va. (Today, Guilford Courthouse is a National Military Park, with living history portrayals of backcountry life and soldiers.)

"I never saw such fighting since God made me. The Americans fought like demons," Cornwallis said later.

May was called a "man of sound judgement (sic) and good counsel" in an informal history of Farmville published in 1972 by the Farmville Area Centennial Cooperation. He became a justice of the peace after the war and was elected to the state's House of Commons in 1804. He and his wife, Mary Tyson May, whom he married in 1765, had at least 10 children. He died in 1808 or 1809.

Honoring May's Legacy

In 1925, the North Carolina Historical Commission and the DAR erected a monument to May's Revolutionary War service near the Farmville cemetery where he was buried. The next year, a half-dozen women gathered in the home of Emily Turnage Monk, wife of local tobacco magnate and prominent banker A.C. Monk, to form the Major Benjamin May Chapter.

"Tobacco was a way of life here. Whole families worked in the industry. The town revolved around Monk, whose firm shipped tobacco globally," Mrs. Davenport explained.



Above, counterclockwise: Constructed in 1938 to honor Major Benjamin May's memory and serve as a DAR meeting house, the house's dedication in 1949 was attended by national and state DAR representatives and representatives of North Carolina colleges. • A Steinway & Sons medium concert grand piano and an elaborately carved and painted 18th-century wooden fireplace mantel are features of the powder-blue ballroom. • The 18th-century grandfather clock, also in the ballroom, hails from the family of Gay Davenport, a descendant of Major Benjamin May. • The still-functioning dumbwaiter is used for food service. • A dedication plaque for the crystal chandelier in the ballroom honors local pioneer women.



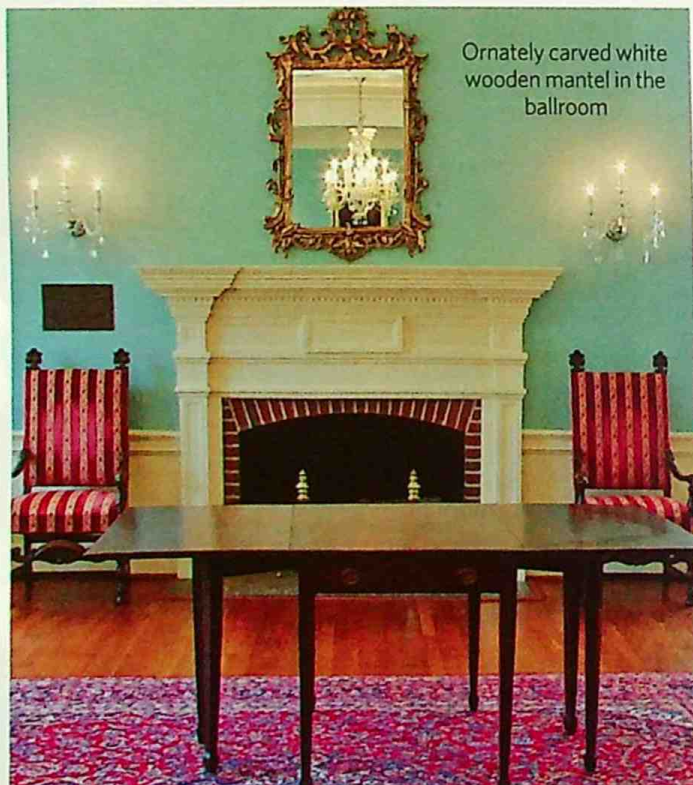
In 1930, the Monks donated land that was originally owned by May for the purpose of building a DAR meeting house. The family also donated startup funds of \$8,000, which were quickly matched by local residents.

Constructed in 1938, the house's dedication was delayed until 1949 by an economic depression that impacted the rural area. Today, the house is furnished with antiques donated by local residents.

There are no offices or residential rooms; each floor is one large room. "People often think it was a home, and ask where the bedrooms are, but it never functioned as one," Mrs. Davenport said.

The first-floor ballroom has powder-blue walls, a Steinway & Sons medium grand piano and a crystal chandelier. A dedication plaque for the chandelier honors local pioneer women. The plaque reads, "May it symbolize their courageous endurance, sublime purpose and flaming faith, a heritage to be perpetuated in bright succession." Another plaque honors the Turnage and Monk parentage: "They lived bravely through the tragic era of war and reconstruction so let us be brave enough to turn our eyes toward simple ways of living. Brave enough and wise enough to take the righteous road. Strong enough to face the days ahead and bring God's Grace back to a land founded on His Code."

The white fireplace mantel, a fine example of ornately hand-carved heart pine, and the grandfather clock, which hails from Mrs. Davenport's family, are both 18th-century pieces. The Empire sofa is circa 1840–1860, while the Victorian sofa and chairs are early 20th century.



Ornately carved white wooden mantel in the ballroom



A bronze eagle guards the front entrance

Upstairs, a long mahogany banquet table seats 22 people. The fully furnished kitchen has two ovens, a functioning dumbwaiter for food service and granite countertops.

Preserving the Mays' Memory

In 2011, Major Benjamin May Chapter members raised almost \$200,000 to repair water damage and bring the meeting house up to code, with the help of restoration specialist Rick Lambeth Construction in nearby Tarboro.

"It's a graceful, elegant structure that enhances the community, and we feel privileged to be stewards of such a legacy," Mrs. Davenport said.

Some memorabilia from Major May's family is preserved across town at the May Museum and Park, whose director, Deborah Higgins, is a member of the Major Benjamin May Chapter.

The museum chronicles the agricultural, commercial, domestic life and transportation heritage of Farmville and Western Pitt County from Colonial times to the present. Housed in a mid-19th-century home in the Farmville Historic District, the museum interprets the area's history through both permanent exhibits and special programs.

In addition to May family correspondence, the museum features a kitchen taken from May's 18th-century home, which no longer exists. (The kitchen was moved to its new spot after being rolled on logs and pulled by a team of mules.) Two 18th-century wooden cabinets and a teapot set also belonged to his family.

When You Go

Major Benjamin May House is open to visitors by appointment. For more information, contact house manager Rachel Bailey at rcb4466@gmail.com.

May Museum and Park is open Tuesday–Friday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.; other times by appointment. Admission is free. For more details, visit <http://farmvillenc.gov/departments/may-museum-park>.

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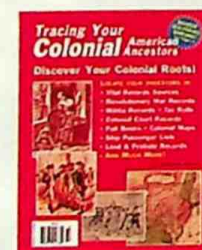
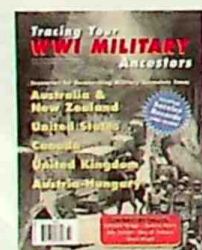
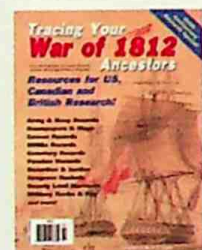
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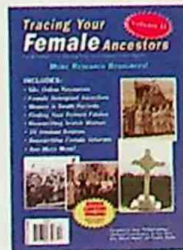
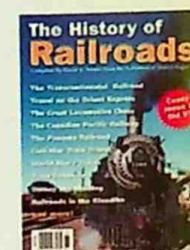
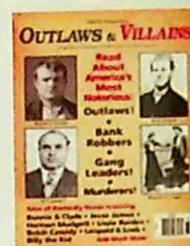
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TIMOTHY MATLACK

Fiery Patriot, Steady Scribe

By Jamie Roberts

It's surprising that such a colorful and committed Patriot as Timothy Matlack is relatively unknown today. Perhaps his provocative nature offended the sensibilities of conservative 19th-century historians, theorizes Chris Coelho, in his biography, *Timothy Matlack: Scribe of the Declaration of Independence* (McFarland, 2013). Yet looking closer at his long career, it's clear that Matlack "believed in the United States of America and its destiny for greatness," as Coelho writes.

Born into the Quaker faith, Matlack was once considered a prime candidate for the ministry, but he was disowned from

the Society of Friends for radical beliefs and behavior. Despite shame over his father's crippling debt, Matlack found himself in debtor's prison—twice. Full of contradictions, this failed merchant rose from obscurity to earn the responsibility of inscribing what's arguably the most famous document in American history.

Matlack became an influential political figure before and during the Revolution. His political life after the war was rocky, but his radical ideas about democracy helped solidify the foundations of a new government.

Finding His Way

Matlack was born May 28, 1736, in Haddonfield, N.J., to Martha Burr and Timothy Matlack, a Quaker merchant, brewer and beer bottler. He was 8 years old when his family moved to Philadelphia, renting a house next door to Benjamin Franklin. He attended school until he was 13, and in 1749, he started a seven-and-a-half-year apprenticeship to successful Quaker merchant John Reynell. Matlack aspired to a much more prosperous life than his father, who was constantly juggling creditors.

Matlack finished his apprenticeship in 1757 and married Ellen Yarnall, the daughter of a Quaker preacher, the next year. They had five children. After Ellen's death in 1791, Matlack married widow Elizabeth Claypoole Copper in 1797.

In 1760 Matlack, like his father, established a career as a merchant, opening a hardware shop he called the Case Knife. Even as his shop neared failure, he continued his favorite pastimes: the sports of horseracing and gamecock fighting. The gambling and cavorting with "lower classes" led to a schism with church leaders, and Matlack was disowned by the Quakers in July 1765.

His penchant for gambling also brought on heavy debts. In 1768 and again in 1769, he was thrown into debtors' prison. After his release, he started a new enterprise selling bottled beer—once again mirroring his father. In 1769 Matlack opened his own brewery near the Philadelphia State House.

Holding Fast to His Beliefs

Brewing beer was only one of his many jobs. Matlack held a variety of political offices during the Revolutionary era, including storekeeper of military supplies, member of the state Council of Safety and clerk to Charles Thomson, secretary of the Second Continental Congress. He was also selected to be

colonel of the Fifth Rifle Battalion, one of the five battalions of the Philadelphia militia. Matlack's force saw action at the battles of Trenton and Princeton in 1776 and 1777, and the battalion continued to serve in the winter campaign until it dissolved at the end of January.

Matlack's penmanship was excellent, so he was tasked with copying legal documents such as land deeds, military commissions, and birth and marriage certificates. But he would soon find that a more famous document awaited him.

On July 9, 1776, New York was the last Colony to officially approve the text of the Declaration of Independence, and on July 19, Congress ordered the engrossed, or official and authoritative, copy.

As author Coelho describes it: "Secretary Charles Thomson assigned Timothy Matlack the task of preparing a finely engrossed Declaration. Although completely occupied by the Convention, Council of Safety and his rifle battalion, Matlack made time for this important work. Perhaps in the evening hours, on his desk at home, he arranged a large sheet of parchment in front of him, along with his quill and ink stand, a copy of the printed Declaration and perhaps his own handwritten copy of the text (if he had one)."

Matlack scripted the document—the official one on display in the National Archives—on vellum, or fine parchment, using a feather-quill pen dipped in iron-gall ink. John Hancock and 55 others began signing Matlack's copy on August 2.

As talk of revolution swirled, Matlack emerged as a strong leader, an advocate of personal liberty and the security of property. He opposed slavery, believing strongly in the freedom and equality of all men—despite personally owning a slave named Hester whom he purchased after his first wife's death. Matlack's rhetoric "inflamed the people in town meetings and taverns," explains Coelho, who likens him to fellow radical Thomas Paine.

Battling for Power

Matlack and fellow leaders of the Pennsylvania Convention were instrumental in drafting the Pennsylvania Constitution of 1776, which scholars described as the most democratic in America. After he helped shape the constitution, Matlack was elected secretary to Pennsylvania's Supreme Executive Council, making him one of the most powerful men in the new state during the war. He became an ardent defender of the constitution against such critics as James Wilson, leader of Pennsylvania Republicans, as well as Benjamin Rush and John Dickinson. Using the pseudonym Tiberius Gracchus, or "T.G.," he wrote a number of newspaper articles attacking his opponents.



Timothy Matlack's elegant, flowing penmanship full of looping flourishes was in a style called English round hand. Known today as Copperplate, the script has inspired several other typefaces, including American Scribe.

In 1779, Secretary Matlack represented Pennsylvania at the trial for the court martial of Benedict Arnold, serving as a star prosecution witness.

His days as a political star were nearing their end, however. As the Republicans gained power, his political enemies worked behind the scenes to oust him. In 1782, he was removed as secretary to the Supreme Executive Council on charges of accounting discrepancies. He fought the charges, and the proceedings against him were eventually dropped. However, Matlack never regained his former political clout.

Designing a New Society

Matlack was one of the founders of the Society of Free Quakers in 1781. The society was primarily made up of Quakers who had either been disowned or had resigned from the established Quaker community for their support of or participation in the use of military force against Great Britain. Matlack was vocal in his criticism of the Society of Friends, denouncing the group for not joining the fight for abolition. According to the University of Pennsylvania online archives, after the death of a son during the Revolutionary War, Matlack even "caned two Quakers who criticized his sons for bearing arms against the British."

Matlack, along with Benjamin Franklin, Robert Morris and others, helped raise funds to construct the Free Quaker Meeting House in downtown Philadelphia. Among Matlack's many talents, he's also credited with designing the Meeting House and its masonry vaults.

Matlack lived in Lancaster, Pa., from 1799 until 1808, while the city was the state capital. He remained in politics, but was relegated to less-prestigious political posts such as a clerk of the Pennsylvania State Senate.

In 1779, Matlack was named a trustee of the new University of the State of Pennsylvania (now the University of Pennsylvania), where he served until 1785. In 1780, he was elected to the American Philosophical Society, serving as a secretary from 1781 to 1783. He delivered speeches urging the development of modern agricultural research and education in America. "The Star-bespangled Genius of America ..." he said in one address, "points to Agriculture as the stable Foundation of the rising mighty Empire." And in 1790, Matlack worked as a surveyor in Pennsylvania, tasked with surveying the northwestern portion of the state purchased from the American Indians.

After his death in Holmesburg, Pa., on April 14, 1826, Matlack was interred at Philadelphia's Free Quaker Burial Ground.



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